

Ozal party takes early lead in election

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's ruling Conservative Party took an early lead in Sunday's parliamentary election, which was widely expected to give Prime Minister Turgut Ozal a fresh five-year mandate for economic reforms. His Motherland Party took 39.07 per cent of the first 541,278 votes counted, enough for a comfortable majority in the expanded 450-seat parliament, official sources said. About 26 million people voted in the most open election since the 1980 coup which crushed extremist violence. Turkey, which applied last April to join the European Community, is keen to brush up its tarnished democratic image. The sources said the main opposition Social Democrat Populist Party (SDPP) had taken 24.46 per cent of the vote so far and the right-of-centre True Path Party (TPP) 18.89 per cent. The four other parties, including the Muslim Fundamentalist group, were all below the 10 per cent needed to take seats in parliament. Mr. Ozal, 60, had campaigned on his record of political stability and economic liberalisation since taking office in 1983's military-supervised elections.

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King sends messages on summit to five heads of state

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday sent messages outlining the results of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit to the leaders of India, Turkey and Indonesia. The messages were delivered to the ambassadors of the three countries to Jordan by acting Foreign Minister Marwan Dudin in separate meetings on Sunday. Mr. Dudin also asked the Jordanian ambassadors to Morocco and Indonesia to convey similar messages to the presidents of Senegal and Malaysia.

Rifai meets outgoing envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met on Sunday with the Indonesian and Japanese ambassadors to Jordan on the occasion of the end of the envoys' missions in Amman. Later in the evening, Mr. Rifai also received in separate meetings Jordan Bar Association President Hussein Majali, General Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce President Hamdi Tabba, Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan, and the director general of the company for radio and television production, Jawad Maraqa.

Danish energy minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — The Danish minister of energy arrived in Amman on Sunday to take part in the meetings of a specialised conference on prospects for oil and future development in the Arab countries due to open here on Tuesday. The Danish guest was received upon his arrival at the Queen Abla International Airport by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khattab, Ministry Under-Secretary Ibrahim Badran, the Danish ambassador to Jordan and members of the Danish diplomatic mission in Amman.

Bangladesh cities remain under curfew

DHAKA (R) — Police re-imposed curfews and paramilitary police stepped up patrols in five city centres after Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad imposed talks with his opponents on fresh elections. Police said 14-hour curfews were re-imposed in Dhaka, Chittagong, Jessore, Narayanganj and Rajshahi at 4 p.m. (1000 GMT) after a night-hour curfew. Paramilitary police in trucks mounted with machineguns began patrolling streets of the country's capital, Dhaka, to enforce the curfew.

Poles vote in referendum

VARSAN (AP) — Poles voted today in the nation's first referendum in 41 years, deciding whether to endorse government plans for democratisation and a radical economic reform package that includes higher prices. A steady stream of voters showed up at flag-bedecked polling stations around the country. The government news agency PAP said turnout appeared higher than in Poland's last elections in 1985 (see page 8).

Laoti polls called off

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Laoti's first free elections in 30 years were called off after the polls opened Sunday because of widespread violence, officials said. More than 20 people were reported killed overnight. "The elections are cancelled," Pierre Havet, an official of the independent electoral council, said. automatic weapons fire, sirens and explosions reverberated round Port-Au-Prince overnight and early Sunday. By mid-morning, the streets of the capital city of one million were virtually deserted. After daylight, Western reporters who tried to move in the streets were shot at, and some were pinned down in buildings.

King: Jordan's defence of Palestinian rights is a national commitment

His Majesty, in message marking International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian people, reaffirms pledge to pursue just settlement

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday that Jordan's defence of the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people was unquestionable since the Kingdom's stand stemmed from its historic and geographic links with the Palestinian people, its national commitments to them and the mutual interests of Jordanians and Palestinians.

"Jordanians and Palestinians form one part of the same nation which is the target of the same aggression, and therefore we accept what our brothers under occupation accept because they are the party that faces the consequences of the Israeli occupation," the King said in a message to the U.N. Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The message was sent on the eve of the anniversary

of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. In the message, delivered on his behalf by Mr. Abdullah Salah, Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, the King said that the struggle for Palestine was "between the legitimate owners of land and the usurpers of that land."

"Jordan's position was, and still is, based on rescuing the land and the Israeli occupation prior to enhancing the presence of the Palestinian people in their soil," the King said in his message. He said that despite failure of past efforts to liberate the land and the people, Jordan "will continue to extend support to the Palestinians to strengthen their steadfastness in the face of Israel's plans to annex and Judaize Arab land."

The annual observance of the

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People has a special importance. It is a living proof of the just Palestinian cause which we consider as a means for renewing our commitment to the rights of the Arab people of Palestine and a new pledge for serious and perseverant efforts aimed at safeguarding their rights, hoping for the fulfilment of a just solution of their problem on the basis of international legitimacy and the principles of the United Nations Charter and U.N. Security Council Resolutions 338 of 1973 and 242 of 1967.

There is no doubt that your efforts form a tributary enhancing our concept that the basis of peace between the Arabs and Israel means the achievement of justice for the Palestinians. This conception stems from the Palestinian people's demands for their rights which enjoy the support

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians stage violent protests on eve of anniversary of partition vote

Four Arabs wounded by occupation army

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot at hundreds of Palestinian demonstrators Sunday, wounding four, the army and Arab sources said.

The protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip marked the 40th anniversary of United Nations vote to partition Palestine, a decision that paved the way for the creation of Israel in May 1948.

Palestinians also staged commercial strikes throughout the occupied territories, and the army reported firebomb and stone-throwing attacks on Israeli soldiers.

Large contingents of soldiers and police were deployed in the West Bank and Gaza in anticipation of demonstrations during the anniversary.

Israeli soldiers shot and wounded three Palestinians in

clashes at the Balata refugee camp near Nablus, the West Bank's largest city 60 kilometres north of Jerusalem, according to the Palestine Press Service.

In the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, troops forced their way into a girls' school after pupils threw petrol bombs at a military vehicle and soldiers, an army spokesman said.

In Khan Yunis, protesters burned tyres and threw stones.

In the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin, Israeli troops fired tear gas to disperse protesters who raised Palestinian flag and burned tyres, the army said.

Students boycotted classes at the Islamic and Polytechnic universities in Hebron in protest against the partition plan.

The army said a curfew was imposed on Balta.

In the Gaza Strip city of Rafah, meanwhile, a 17-year-old high

school student was shot in the leg when soldiers opened fire to disperse about 500 protesters, a Palestinian reporter said.

The reporter identified the student as Sami Jarhoul of the village of Deir Al Sultan, and said 15 protesters were arrested.

The protesters tied Palestinian flags and pictures to telephone wires, chanted anti-Israeli slogans and stoned soldiers, said the reporter who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

In the Askar refugee camp near Nablus, troops fired tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse protesters, the army official said.

Commercial strikes were reported in Nablus, Ramallah, Jenin and Arab Jerusalem.

Police also said a bomb was safely dismantled in Gilo, a Jewish neighbourhood in Arab Jerusalem.

PLO offices reopened in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt allowed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to reopen its Cairo offices on Sunday, seven months after they were closed in retaliation for PLO criticism of Egypt.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid announced the decision in a brief statement. He did not say why the April 27 shutdown was being reversed.

Six PLO offices were affected by the closure, which came a day after the Palestinian National Council passed a resolution highly critical of President Hosni Mubarak's policy of peace with Israel.

The resolution, accepted by Chairman Yasser Arafat to assuage radicals within his movement, indirectly called for contacts with "nationalist, democratic and popular forces" in Egypt to entice Cairo to abandon its peace accord with Israel.

The movement's representative in Cairo, Zuhdi Al Kudra, raised the Palestinian flag over the main PLO office in a southern section of the city as 15 to 20 Palestinians including women applauded.

He said all of the closed offices were being reopened. Despite the closure, he said, no Palestinian officials had been expelled from Egypt.

Mr. Kudra, who represents the biggest PLO group, Fateh, told reporters the organisation was very grateful for Egypt's decision.

Israelis use flares to terrorise S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Panic spread in South Lebanon Sunday night when flares, believed to be fired by Israeli soldiers, spread over the port city of Tyre while Israeli gunboats cruised off the Lebanese coast sparking fears that an Israeli attack was in the making in retaliation for last Wednesday's Palestinian commando attack which killed six Israeli soldiers and injured seven others in an Israeli military camp.

The French news agency (AFP) reported that at least three Israeli gunboats were seen off the coast near to the Palestinian refugee camps in Sidon. AFP said militiamen who control the area were on full alert against possible Israeli attacks.

Approximately 50 flares were seen fired over Tyre, some 85 kilometres south of Beirut, four hours Sunday. The flares terrorised civilian citizens, AFP said.

The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, said on Sunday the Israeli government would await a report from defence officials before deciding how to respond to the hang-glider commando attack on Wednesday.

France releases Gordji; Iran questions French consul

PARIS (AP) — Wahid Gordji, a translator at the Iranian embassy in Paris wanted for questioning in connection with terrorist bombings, left the blockaded building Sunday, appeared before a magistrate and then departed for Tehran, authorities said.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said French Embassy First Secretary Paul Torri, accused by the Iranians of spying, appeared before an Islamic tribunal at Tehran's Evin prison.

The simultaneous moves appeared to be part of a deal resulting from the negotiations that led to the release of two French hostages Friday in Lebanon.

The state prosecutor in Paris, Michel Raynaud, said in a statement that no charges were filed against Gordji and that he was allowed to go freely.

Iran questions French consul

After leaving the courthouse, Gordji was taken under strong police escort to Le Bourget airport where he was put aboard a private jet aircraft. Police cars continued to follow the aircraft down the runway until it took off.

There was no more information over the Tehran questioning of the French consul.

IRNA said Mr. Torri had "long been wanted by the Islamic revolutionary tribunal for some explanations, but had so far continued to refuse to appear."

The agency, however, did not spell out the charges against Mr. Torri or mention previous Iranian allegations of spying.

Iraqis bomb Iranian power stations

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq said its warplanes bombed installations at two electricity generating dams in southwestern Iran and a ship in the Gulf on Sunday.

Iran reported it was sending an envoy to the United Nations for negotiations on the Security Council's ceasefire resolution on the Gulf war.

An Iraqi military communique said waves of Iraqi jets "penetrated enemy air defences and raided highly important economic targets" linked with Iran's war effort.

The communique, quoted in an Iraqi News Agency (INA) dispatch monitored in Cyprus, said the warplanes inflicted serious damage on the power distribution network at Grand Reza Shah dam.

The agency identified the dam using the name the facility bore before the 1979 Islamic revolution that toppled Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, whose father was Reza Shah. The new name was not known.

Simultaneously, other jets struck at the Al Diz dam's electricity distribution station, leaving it "gutted with explosions," the agency said.

Iran did not comment on the Iraqi reports.

Iraqi jets raided a "big naval target" off the Iranian coast, INA quoted the communique as saying, using the term customary for tankers and other vessels attacked in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, Iran announced it was sending a Foreign Ministry undersecretary to New York for negotiations with the United Nations secretary-general on the July 20 Security Council ceasefire call.

State-run Tehran Radio said Mohammad Larjani, an undersecretary on international and economic affairs, would go to New York on Monday.

It said he would travel "as Iran's representative, to declare Iran's stand about ways of implementing justice regarding the aggressor and to describe Iran's fundamental stand about Security Council Resolution 598."

The visit came at the request of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the radio said.

Iraq has already agreed to send Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to the talks.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday addresses the opening session of the third round of Euro-Arab dialogue organised by the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum (ATF). The Crown Prince is flanked by ATF Secretary-General Sadeed Ibrahim (left) and Sir John Moberly of the London-based Royal Institute for International Affairs (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Crown Prince questions motivations behind U.S. naval presence in Gulf

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday questioned the motivations behind the presence of foreign navies in the Gulf and said the cause of peace and stability of the region could not be served with the superpower military build-up that adds to the already tense and complex situation in the Iran-Iraq war.

The Crown Prince singled out the American naval presence in the Gulf and said: "No-one in the U.S., or in Europe for that matter, has asked the question as to what it is that the American naval task force in particular is supposed to be doing in the Gulf."

Addressing the opening session of the third round of Euro-Arab dialogue in Amman, the Crown Prince said there were four major questions concerning the U.S. presence in the Gulf.

"Is it there to protect Kuwaiti ships? Is it there to guarantee the freedom of navigation in interna-

tional waters? Is it there to contain Iran's war and its quest for hegemony over its neighbours? Is it there to check communist penetration of the region and limit Soviet influence?"

In this regard, Prince Hassan said, one thing is clear: "It cannot be all these things at the same time."

"While the protection of Kuwaiti ships is necessary and desirable, it becomes rather para-

turn lead to improvement of the Iranian war machine and its capabilities," he said.

Meanwhile, Prince Hassan said, the Americans "do not show the kind of resolve that would deter Iran from pursuing its war aims for the fear of driving Iran into the Soviet orbit."

The Crown Prince warned that the region could no longer afford this kind of "reactive diplomacy" of doing things and finding the

Third round of Euro-Arab dialogue opens in Amman

doxical to do that, and allow American-owned ships to be attacked by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards," said the Crown Prince. "Moreover, to guarantee freedom of navigation is not compatible with the containment of the Iranian war effort since Iran would be able to export its oil without interference. Increased oil exports will inevitably mean increased revenues which will in

explaination for it afterwards," and called for a "well-thought out, coherent and comprehensive policy which addresses itself to the problems of the region rather than deal with their symptoms all the time."

(Continued on page 3)

Full text of the Crown Prince's speech appears on page 5

Arab and European experts assess impact and future course of Gulf war

By Jordan Times Reporters

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan told the third round of Euro-Arab dialogue that began Sunday to focus its discussions on the convergence of threats from regional hotspots rather than dwell on analysis of present developments in the area.

Addressing the evening session of the two-day meeting, the Crown Prince said he was "personally frustrated" with "the mess we find ourselves in terms of the dialogue" and with "outrageous ideas" by participants in the meeting who he said were presenting scenarios that have "no bearing on reality."

"The issue to discuss is not a crystal ball viewing" of present situations and future scenarios, the Crown Prince said at a session that dealt with the future implications of the Gulf war.

He urged participants to tackle "the convergence of tension spots" in the region by linking the Gulf war with the Arab-Israeli conflict in the context of threats from "strategic Israel." Prince Hassan referred to Israel's nuclear threat, which "is alarming to us in the region."

On the Gulf war, he said the

question that needs to be asked was whose interests would be served by the withdrawal of Western naval forces from the Gulf. "I assume, not in the interest of the Soviet Union," the Crown Prince said.

"The reality is that the Soviet Union is not interested in the fundamentalist (threat) south of its borders," the Crown Prince told the meeting.

Referring to recent statements by Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rastanjani, Prince Hassan said the statements were designed to "test the cracks in the

(Continued on page 5)

KAL jet on Baghdad-Seoul flight 'disappears' with 115 aboard

SEOUL (Agencies) — A Korean Air jet with 115 people aboard on a flight from the Middle East was missing Sunday somewhere near Burma and may have crashed into the sea or thick jungle, officials said.

An air operations official at Seoul's Kimpoo international airport said KAL Flight 858 from Baghdad to Seoul vanished without a trace and that officials were trying to determine what happened.

"It just disappeared," said one official.

The four-engine Boeing 707 jet was carrying 95 passengers and a flight crew of 20, the airline said. All but two of the people aboard were South Korean nationals, officials said.

The Burmese civil aviation administration in Rangoon said the plane was over the Andaman sea some 240 kilometres west of the Burmese coastal town of Tavoy when contact was lost.

Burmese officials told AP in Rangoon that the plane was making routine contact with air-traffic controllers at Rangoon airport before proceeding into Burmese air space when it disappeared.

Burmese officials informed the South Korean government that a search operation had been launched, but initial sweeps found nothing, officials in Seoul said.

Airline officials said if the plane had gone down, it may have crashed in thick jungle or in the sea, where it would be difficult to find. They said the plane was flying at 37,000 feet when last heard from.

A spokesman for Korean Airlines in Seoul said the airliner lost radio contact as it approached Bangkok, and one KAL official said it could have been hijacked.

In Bangkok, traffic controllers said they had no contact with the plane.

Two Burmese airliners on domestic flights, carrying mostly tourists, have crashed in the last six months with the loss of all on board.

In Seoul, a KAL official told Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) the plane was travelling at such high altitude that the pilot should have had time to signal any technical failure to Bangkok.

Some 300 anxious relatives and friends waited at Kimpoo airport for word on the plane's fate. Crying men, women and children clung to each other and stared at the flight arrival announcement board.

KAL officials held out hope the plane may have tried to make

an emergency landing in Kampuchea, Laos or Vietnam.

But a KAL official told a news conference that the airline could not rule out the possibility of terrorism or hijacking. The official said the plane could have been forced to land in a communist nation in southeast Asia, possibly Vietnam.

South Korean security forces were put on alert Thursday after Japanese police in Tokyo arrested a suspected extremist who had made plans to fly to Seoul on Dec. 7.

Japanese authorities identified the suspect as Osamu Maruoka and said he was a leader of the Red Army.

South Korean officials said they ordered the alert because of possible attempts to disrupt the Dec. 16 presidential elections by kidnapping one or more of the candidates.

The South Korean Foreign Ministry alerted all its embassies in the Southeast Asian region to help get information on the plane.

Airline officials said the South Korean consul general to Iraq, Kang Suk-Jae, and his wife were on the plane. He was to attend a routine meeting in Seoul.

Egypt steps in to ease Sudan-Ethiopian tension

KHARTOUM, Sudan (Agencies) — Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki told Sudanese officials Sunday that Egypt is trying to ease newly heightened tension between Sudan and Ethiopia.

A lingering dispute between the north east African neighbours reached new heights recently when Khartoum charged that Ethiopia committed aggression against a Sudanese border post, allowing it to fall to southern rebels.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Muammar Sanad said Mr. Sedki told him during a meeting that Egypt is concerned about the "stability and security of Sudan, especially at the Ethiopian border."

He quoted Mr. Sedki as saying he hoped a letter from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam would help tamp down the dispute between the two.

Sudan accused Ethiopia two weeks ago of providing artillery support during a takeover by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) of Kismayo, a border post 640 kilometres south east of Khartoum.

of Khartoum.

A measure of Sudanese displeasure over the incident was the cancellation on Saturday of Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi's planned trip to Addis Ababa for an extraordinary meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). A cabinet statement said the cancellation was because Ethiopia had "participated in aggression against Sudan's sovereignty."

Ethiopia has denied any role in the battle for Kismayo. The two countries for years have accused one another of supporting rebel movements opposed to the other's central government.

Sudan had dramatically stepped up its diplomatic campaign against Ethiopia, saying it would work the transfer from Addis Ababa of the OAU headquarters.

Sudanese Trade Minister Ibrahim Hassan Abdul Jalil will now lead the Sudanese delegation to OAU.

Referring to Ethiopia the Sudanese statement said: "Sudan will work for the headquarters of the Organisation of African Unity to be moved to a country which respects the organisation's charter."

Mr. Sedki has come to Khartoum with two other messages from Mr. Mubarak to Mr. Ahmad Ali Al Mirghani, president of Sudan's five-man Supreme Council acting as joint presidency.

Speaking after two hours of talks between Mr. Mahdi and Mr. Sedki, Mr. Sanad said Sudanese officials had briefed the Egyptian prime minister on the military situation following the capture on Nov. 12 of the town of Kismayo by the rebels.

The SPLA has been fighting troops in the vast, mainly animist and Christian south of Sudan since 1983 in a bid to overthrow the Khartoum government.

The fall of Kismayo was the SPLA's biggest military victory outside south Sudan.

Chad reports second clash with Libya

PARIS (R) — Chad said on Saturday its forces had killed 44 Libyan troops in the second clash between the two countries in less than a week.

A statement from the central African country's Paris embassy said three Chadian soldiers died in the clash, which breached a ceasefire agreed on Sept. 11.

Chad said men from Libya's Islamic Legion, made up mostly of troops from various African nations, had entered Chad from Sudan.

United States, said the clash took place on Friday near the settlement of Amraddoussa in the Goz Beida region, a sparsely populated area near the Sudanese border.

A Chadian statement on Tuesday also reported fighting near the Sudanese border. Libya denied there had been a clash.

The official Chadian press have warned of a major new outbreak of fighting, accusing Col. Muammar Qadhafi of massing troops for an attack.

Col. Qadhafi, whose troops

were driven out of northern Chad earlier this year, has denied plans to attack his southern neighbour and accused Paris and Washington of stirring up trouble.

Diplomatic observers have predicted the ceasefire arranged by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) will not hold as Libya and Chad have failed to resolve their dispute over the Aouzou Strip border region.

Chadian President Hissene Habre has vowed to regain control of the border strip now occupied by Libya.

Church believes Waite is still alive

LONDON (R) — The Archbishop of Canterbury's office said on Sunday it believed special envoy Terry Waite was still alive, 10 months after he disappeared in Lebanon on a mission to negotiate the release of hostages.

A spokeswoman for the Church of England's leader at Lambeth Palace said she was encouraged by statements of a French hostage released in Beirut on Friday that he had heard English voices during his captivity.

No group has claimed responsibility for kidnapping Waite.

19th U.S. Gulf convoy passes through Hormuz

TAMPA, Florida (R) — The 19th U.S. Navy escort of re-registered Kuwaiti tankers moved safely through the Strait of Hormuz and out of the Gulf, the U.S. Defense Department said.

A statement by the U.S. Central Command Headquarters in Tampa said two liquefied gas carriers, the Gas Queen and Gas Prince, and the product carrier Townsend, were accompanied by the frigates USS Elrod and Thach. The convoy began its southbound journey from waters off Kuwait on Nov. 23.

The statement said the trip was uneventful with no unusual Iranian air or surface activity.

Meanwhile Tehran Radio said on Sunday a Kuwaiti oil tanker which used the name of a Roman vessel in an attempt to escape attacks in the Gulf last

week also flew a West German flag.

Gulf shipping sources said Iranian Navy vessels fired on the 66,652-tonne Kuwait tanker Umm Al Jathathel off Dubai on Thursday after getting close enough to see its original name under the newly-painted word, Dacia — the name of a Romanian tanker at drydock in Romania at the time.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted an informed source at the Iranian Navy as saying Iran's naval units shadowing the Umm Al Jathathel saw the West German flag raised on it.

Iran has singled out Kuwaiti vessels for attack because of the emirate's backing of Iraq in the Gulf war.

France, Arab World open joint cultural centre today

PARIS (R) — France and the Arab World will cement years of close relations when President Francois Mitterrand on Monday opens a vast joint cultural centre designed to bring Islam and Europe closer together.

France's contribution to the cost of the Institute of the Arab World is seen as the crowning of more than 25 years of friendly contacts with Arab states since its last North African colony, Algeria, became independent in 1961.

The building, which looks over Paris from its site on the banks of the River Seine, cost 341 million francs (\$72 million) to build. France met 60 per cent of the bill.

The rest was financed by 20 Arab countries including former French colonies as well as Libya, Syria, and Iraq.

The centre, designed to show the best of European and Islamic architecture, houses a large library and will host exhibitions of Arab culture.

"We are proud of the institute's originality, its beauty and its practicality," Paul Carton, the president of the institute, told a news conference.

"The library and computer system offer information in French and Arabic. It is a unique foundation which will allow closer links to develop between Europe and the Arab World," he said.

Mr. Carton's brother, Marcel, is one of three French hostages in Beirut, where he has been held since March, 1985.

Mr. Carton said the building had been widely praised ahead of the opening for its imaginative blend of European and Islamic architectural styles.

Facing into the heart of the French capital, the front of the building is dominated by a cylindrical tower of plain white marble. The tower is based on the minarets which stud the skylines of Muslim cities.

A second facade which looks over an inner courtyard is fronted by a wall of glass patterned with the delicate tracery of Islamic windows.

But architect Jean Nouvel said a Western touch of hi-tech had been added to the wall of windows.

The intricate patterns are made of rings and strips of metal fixed to light-sensitive equipment. Nouvel said he and a 10-strong team of architects who have worked on the project since 1981 wanted to combine Islamic elegance with the functional simplicity of Western design.

"Its symbolism and its modernity are based on a current interpretation of the history of these two civilisations," he added.

U.S. Navy ship tries plan for missile attack

ABOARD USS RICHMOND K. TURNER IN THE GULF (AP) — Lessons learned in the disasters that befell the British destroyer Sheffield in the Falkland Islands war and the American frigate Stark in the Gulf are being tested aboard other U.S. warships facing the daily threat of missile attack.

Known in naval parlance as "mass conflagration," the emergency drill varies from ship to ship, but overall it reflects war recognition that sea warfare has changed dramatically from the World War II days of iron bombs and torpedoes.

The focus is on what happens in a missile attack, such as that which wrecked the Sheffield, killing 20 crewmen, during Britain's 1982 war with Argentina, and the Stark incident last May 17 in which an Iraqi warplane hit the frigate by mistake, killing 37 crew members.

In both cases the French-built Exocet missiles struck amidships, wreaking havoc in vital areas. In the chaos, fire-fighting teams were driven out by fast-spreading flames feeding on unspent missile fuel.

Sheffield was so badly damaged that the ship had to be

scuttled. The Stark's crew managed to save their frigate.

The two events have helped spur development of defensive weapons such as Phalanx, a computerised gun that can stop an incoming missile with a stream of radar-guided shells at 3,000 rounds a minute.

Meanwhile, missile attack survival has become a fixture of periodic "refresher training" for warships at San Diego and Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. "They don't have a plan," said Turner's engineer, Lt. Commander William Tyler, of Charleston, S.C. "They just ask 'what would you do?' and you're supposed to come up with the answers."

The 8,200-ton Turner was one of the first ships in the post-Stark buildup to know well before leaving the United States that it was headed for the Gulf. That gave it about three months to work on the "mass conflagration" plan.

Senior officers say the result is often in calling for the crew to "evacuate" missile-damaged areas and organise the recovery effort from outside, rather than trying to battle the flames amid early confusion.

Based on study of the Sheffield and Stark, the plan assumes:

— A missile most likely will hit amidships, inflicting casualties and crippling communications. Computer models show this a 70 to 80 per cent probability, Lt. Tyler said.

— The explosive warhead will do less damage than the unspent fuel, "something we never heard of before Sheffield," he said. He called it a myth that the British ship had an aluminum superstructure that caused it to burn fiercely. "You're talking about a fire that's 3,000 degrees, and that's enough to melt a steel deck," he said.

— The blast and fire will effectively cut the ship in two, isolating survivors at either end. The 596-foot Turner divides itself about halfway and has extra pumps and other emergency gear on the decks.

Lt. Tyler said the Sheffield and Stark crews initially were driven out by the fires, and already exhausted from smoke and effort when they regrouped for a second try.

Maximum alerts occur daily in the northern Gulf where Iraqi warplanes are active. On Thanksgiving Day, three Iraqi F-1 Mirages in what the Turner's commander, Capt. John D. Luke, of

Charleston, South Carolina, called a "ship attack profile," veered off seconds before the cruiser was to launch its anti-aircraft missiles.

Just a day earlier the Turner had tested its missile emergency plan while plowing through rolling seas 160 miles north of where the Stark was attacked.

As bells rang and a voice shouted "mass conflagration," over the intercom, the crew "evacuated" the central section of the ship, taking fire-fighting and emergency gear and gathering on the bow and the fantail.

Within minutes they were organised into teams, had pumps and hoses working, and established new communications by using rifles to fire telephone lines to a central point on the signal bridge, where a team linked them together.

Despite balky pumps and other minor problems, Capt. Luke said the 30-minute drill showed that time can be gained, not lost, by sealing off damaged spaces to contain fire and smoke as much as possible, then regrouping with available leadership and manpower for a counter-attack on the fire.

Armitage: Soviets may join embargo on Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union may eventually join a proposed United Nations arms embargo against Iran, a top U.S. Defence Department official has said.

Richard Armitage, assistant secretary of defence for international affairs, said Moscow's stance in the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war would be a major topic at next month's summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The two leaders are scheduled to meet in Washington from Dec. 7-10 during which they are expected to sign an accord eliminating medium-range nuclear missiles.

"I happen to believe that the Soviets eventually will be forced to join in an (arms) embargo," against Iran, Mr. Armitage told the Cable News Network (CNN). "They're losing friends and in-

fluence in the Gulf rapidly by their duplicitous policy," he said. "It's very difficult to force the Soviet Union but I think events will lead them to believe that they have to come abroad."

Moscow, one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, has objected to a U.S.-sponsored international arms embargo against Tehran.

Mr. Armitage said Moscow was the principal supplier of arms to Iraq, "yet... the major foot-dragger on trying to bring the war to a close... and acting as it were, on behalf of Iran."

Mr. Armitage was referring to reports the Soviet Union was quietly cementing ties with Tehran in an effort to increase tensions between the United States and Iran to win a strategic edge in the Gulf, where U.S. warships are protecting Kuwaiti tankers against Iranian attack.

The Reagan administration has long pressed its Western allies to end arms sales to Iran, although the president last year secretly shipped weapons to Tehran in an effort to free Americans held hostage by pro-Iranian forces in Lebanon.

Mr. Armitage said he did not expect Mr. Gorbachev to agree to the arms embargo during the summit, the third between the two leaders.

But he said His Majesty King Hussein was planning a trip to Moscow immediately following the summit and was likely to push for Soviet cooperation in an arms embargo against Iran.

Asked whether a deal might be worked out at that time, Mr. Armitage replied: "I think that Gorbachev will hear very seriously from King Hussein about the foibles of their policy in the Middle East and the Gulf."

Iran scandal worse than Watergate — Carter

WASHINGTON (R) — Former President Jimmy Carter called the Iran-contra scandal worse than Watergate but said it should be presumed that President Reagan did not know the full details.

In a taped television interview with British personality David Frost aired in the United States on Saturday night, Mr. Carter said the Watergate scandal that led to President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974 was caused by the "relatively insignificant crime" of a break-in at the Democratic Party offices.

He said the scandal over the secret sale of arms to Iran and diversion of profits to contra rebels in Nicaragua was much more

serious and "has damaged our nation in the 'Middle-East-Arabian' Gulf area, and internally as well."

Mr. Carter said Congress, the media and the public had not wanted to pursue the issue against Mr. Reagan himself. He said he fully approved of this "protection" of the presidency.

"I don't think it would be beneficial to our country or to the office of the president to pursue it any further, and I think that we will never know in the near future, how much Col. North and Adm. Poindexter actually shared with President Reagan. And we ought to just presume that he didn't know anything about it and let it go," Mr. Carter said.

National Security Adviser John Poindexter and his aide Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North were key figures in the Iran affair.

Frost's interview with Mr. Carter, and separate interviews with Mr. Reagan and former President Gerald Ford, is launching a 13-part series on U.S. 1988 presidential candidates.

Questioned by Frost on the Iran-contra affair, Mr. Reagan repeated that "I did not see it as trading arms for hostages." A reference to U.S. hostages held in Lebanon by groups influenced by Iran's Muslim fundamentalists.

Mr. Ford faulted Mr. Reagan for allowing his National Security Council to engage in covert operations.

U.S. reportedly rejects base in Kuwaiti waters

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration has turned down an unpublished offer from Kuwait to set up a floating naval base inside Kuwaiti territorial waters, the Washington Post reported on Sunday.

The Post, quoting a knowledgeable official in the region, said the administration apparently feared it would be unable to protect any such base from attack by Iran's land-based Silkworm missiles.

The U.S. stance, according to the paper, has prompted some Kuwaiti officials to question whether Washington is trying to disengage itself from any commitment to defend Kuwaiti territory from direct attack by Iran.

It said Kuwait had offered to moor an ocean-going barge between its main oil port and the entrance to the port channel.

The facility, described "as big as a football field," would have held U.S. Navy supplies, ammunition, spares, fuel and other stores critical to the U.S. warships escorting re-registered Kuwaiti tankers since July, the Post said.

As of last month, the United States had two operational sea bases in the Gulf consisting of large ocean-going barges, also the size of football fields. A Senate staff report said both barges were provided by Kuwait.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran

15:55 Programme review

16:45 Journeys in Art

17:10 Jack Halborn

17:40 Physics in Action

18:10 Arabic series

19:00 Message from Oman

19:10 Local programme

19:40 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic series

21:30 Local programme on tourist attractions

22:00 Arabic dramas

23:00 News Summary in Arabic

23:10 Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Historical Narratives

19:00 News in French

19:15 Weekly Sports magazine (French)

19:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Varieties

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Kate and Alice

21:00 Communications

21:10 Falcon Crest

22:00 News in English

22:20 A Killing on the Exchange (new music series)

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99.1 KHz. FM

& partly on 99.0 KHz. SW

Tel. 73111-19

07:00 Light Music

07:30 Newsday

08:00 Morning Show

10:00 News Summary

10:05 Just a Minute

11:00 Yes Minister

11:00 News Summary

12:05 Pop Session

13:00 News Summary

13:05 Pop Session Contd.

14:00 News Bulletin

14:30 Piano Magic

15:00 Concert Hour

15:00 News Summary

16:00 News Summary

16:05 Instrumentals

16:30 Old Favourites

17:00 Young Sound

17:30 Pop Session

18:00 News Summary

18:05 Sports Roundup

18:30 Music

19:00 News Desk

19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Turkish products exhibition at the Housing Bank Centre.

* An exhibition of watercolour paintings of Jordan and Egypt by Martin Savage at the Petra Bank Gallery - Wadi Saqra (until Nov. 30 to Dec. 5)

* An exhibition of watercolours of Amman, Salt, Jerash and Petra by British watercolourist Mary Jose at the Gallery of the Jordan International Hotel (until Nov. 30)

* Soviet book exhibition at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmshani (until Nov. 30).

EUROPEAN WEEK

* A European film festival and an exhibition of photographs and posters at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 1).

Tonight's film: "A Room with a View" (U.K.) at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

* "Patinski" in plays, at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre 644571

American Centre library 641521

British Council 6361378

French Cultural Centre 637089

Goethe Institute 641093

Soviet Cultural Centre 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre 621049

Turkish Cultural Centre 639777

Haya Arts Centre 667016

Y.W.C.A. 641793

Y.M.C.A. 642551

Amman Municipal Library 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library 643555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the

Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Oula (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics,

Sagqaf in Cairo, preparing for higher committee talks

CAIRO (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation led by the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply Mohammad Sagqaf arrived here on Sunday to prepare the ground for the meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee due to open on Thursday, under the co-chairmanship of the prime ministers of both countries.

Mr. Sagqaf said in a statement that the Egyptian and Jordanian sides will discuss aspects of cooperation in education, economic and social development, transport, tourism and industry. They will make plans for future joint projects.

W. Germany to grant aid for rural development

AMMAN (J.T.) — The West German government is to grant Jordan technical assistance for the development of rural regions, in accordance with memoranda on cooperation in technical fields signed by the two sides here on Sunday.

The memoranda were signed by Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud and Dr. Herwig Bartels, West Germany's ambassador to Jordan.

Jordan, Mosul universities sign exchange programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan on Sunday signed an executive programme with the Mosul University of Iraq, implementing their bilateral agreement on educational and cultural cooperation.

The two sides agreed to accept students for post-graduate studies at either university, exchange publications and student visits and encourage the holding of scout camps.

UNRWA nurses obtain community health training

AMMAN — The Health Department of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) headquarters here on Sunday commenced a workshop titled "Orientation for Community Health Nursing," sponsored jointly by UNRWA and Save the Children Fund.

The workshop sessions will be held in Beqaa refugee camp, to facilitate concurrent practical exercise in the community, and to benefit from the experience of UNRWA's Community Health Nursing programme.

Road accidents symposium reviews papers covering all aspects of problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — A symposium on the prevention of road accidents continued here on Sunday with the participants discussing several working papers at two separate sessions.

The first paper, on Jordan's legislation on traffic and roads issued in 1984, covered all matters dealing with the imposition of fines and penalties for traffic violations, vehicle testing and imposing speed limits.

The second paper dealt with the causes of road accidents and the role of drivers, as well as the condition of roads. The paper also touched on the role of insurance companies which deal with compensation for accidents caused when drivers violate traffic regulations.

One of the five papers covered the involvement of the World Health Organisation (WHO) which, it said, draws attention to the dangers of the road and holds seminars and conferences to deal with the problem of road accidents.

Education Ministry says new regulations aim to allow students to benefit from holidays

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Education Secretary-General Radi Al Waqfi said on Sunday that recent regulations on school examinations and holidays for the 1987-1988 scholastic year were aimed at allowing the students to benefit more from their holidays.

In an exclusive interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Waqfi gave the following reasons for the new arrangements issued on Nov. 23.

He said that the regulations will allow the concerned school authorities to arrange for special camps for students, helping them to widen their scopes of knowledge.

He said that camps will be held on a permanent basis in Dibbin, Aqaba, North Shuneh and Karameh, where the students will also have the chance to carry out voluntary work.

The new regulations shortening the summer holiday, which previously lasted for three months, is intended to avoid cutting students off from school life for a long period, according to Dr. Waqfi.

Under the new regulations, students will have only two months for summer vacation — from June 18 until Aug. 17, instead of the entire months of June, July and August, as was the previous arrangement.

The new arrangements designate a three-week holiday after the first-term examination in December, and another two-week holiday after the mid-term examination in the spring.

Dr. Waqfi said that the camps and school outings, which the ministry will arrange for the students, will allow them the chance to go to know the Jordanian environment and Jordan's various economic and tourist sites and projects and, thus, foster their sense of belonging to their country and nation.

He said the camps would allow students to spend days among friends away from the home atmosphere, thus preparing them for future life, in addition to making them accustomed to outdoor activity.

According to Dr. Waqfi, the ministry has made arrangements for students to sit for their general examinations, such as the tawjihi, at their own schools, so as to alleviate their fears about these exams. The ministry is also appointing teachers of the same

accidents in Egypt and how this problem has grown over the years there. The paper said that 88 persons in Egypt are either killed or injured on the road daily.

The paper said that the Ismailia region witnesses a great number of these accidents, since Ismailia lies on the main road linking Cairo with the rest of Egypt.

Meanwhile, a specialised seminar on road maintenance continued here on Sunday. The week-long seminar, which opened on Saturday, is discussing road specifications and maintenance, road designs and impediments to traffic flow in the country.

Deputy Mayor of Amman Mr. Ismail Armouti opened the seminar at the Greater Amman Municipality by referring to the municipality's efforts to upgrade the condition of roads.

The ministry's director of education, Khaled Al Sheikh, said that under the new arrangements, supervisors will increase their visits to schools and arrange for more class periods to be given to students to make up for the absence of teachers.

In an interview on Jordan Television, Minister of Education Thougan Hindawi said that the amendments were made in response to recommendations of the National Conference on Education, which received great attention and full support from His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

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Jordan has world's second highest fertility rate — Hamzeh

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With an average of 7.38 children per mother, Jordan has the second highest total average fertility rate in the world, topped only by Kenya, according to Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh.

During his address to the Sunday opening of a seminar on child spacing and its effect on the health of both mother and child, Dr. Hamzeh said that, on the average, women with no schooling give birth to nine children: women with primary education, 6.1 children; and women with secondary education, 3.2 children.

"Family planning is no longer a taboo subject. It is not a crime if we guide Jordanian mothers on how to raise healthy and happy babies. We want healthy babies and happy children, not just a lot of children. Our aim is the health of mothers and children, and we have the necessary means to help," Dr. Hamzeh told the first seminar held on this topic in Jordan.

The seminar is sponsored by the General Federation of Jordanian Women.

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cluding the intrauterine device (IUD), the diaphragm and the condom.

He also gave detailed instructions on how to use these contraceptives, including suppositories, gels, injections, and with particular emphasis on the pill. He then reviewed ways to these contraceptives, their advantages and side effects.

Dr. Ahmad Abdul Wahed then lectured on natural contraception, including the rhythm method and with attention to breastfeeding. The doctor explained the importance of breastfeeding as a healthy practice, physically and psychologically, for both mother and baby.

Dr. Sa'ad Al Dussaqi later explained permanent forms of contraception, such as tubal ligation (cutting or closing the fallopian tubes).

A review of a study conducted in Jordan on surgical sterilisation was presented by Dr. Fahmi Uri. He said the study, conducted on 100 patients, showed that there was no association between menstrual disorders and tubal sterilisation procedure. He also said that the study showed there was no significant change in the patients' sex lives following surgery.

Sheikh Izzeddin Al Tamimi, the Kingdom's mufti, gave a paper on the Islamic sharia's stand on contraception. Before he presented his paper, he had said that it is not religiously forbidden to take contraception, as long as no fertilisation of the egg occurs. He added that abortion is against the sharia, but not if the sperm is stopped from reaching the egg.

Dr. Abdul Wahed openly disagreed with the mufti, saying that purposely stopping life from occurring is considered "haram" (forbidden).

Sheikh Tamimi also explained Islam's view on forming the family, marriage, having children, mother and child care, love and affection towards the child, breastfeeding, family planning, and other topics related to parents and children, including their rights.

Taking part in the seminar, being held at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, are a number of Jordanian gynecologists and obstetricians.

Dr. Hamzeh continued to say that half-a-million mothers around the world die from pregnancy and childbirth complications, and that 99 per cent of these deaths occur in developing countries. "In Jordan, we don't

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An International Organization based in Amman requires the services of a young, energetic and dynamic person for the post of an Assistant Information and Communication Officer. The candidate for this post should be a Jordanian national with degree in Journalism, Communications or Social Sciences; 4 - 5 years professional experience in the fields of communications, mass media or journalism. The candidate should have an excellent command of written and spoken Arabic and English. Knowledge of French is highly desirable.

Main duties will be as follows:

1. Assistance in the preparation of written and audio-visual materials in Arabic and English, and preferably in French also.
2. Maintaining close relations with the local and international media in Jordan.

Monthly Salary: Net 527 - 731 (according to qualification and experience) plus other benefits.

Candidates meeting these requirements should apply in writing to the Personnel Section, P.O. Box 811721, Amman, Jordan by not later than December 15, 1987.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1974.

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The EC and the development of the occupied territories

THE CATASTROPHE of 1967 and the resulting occupation of Arab territories became basically a Jordanian trauma. Following the conclusion of the Camp David Accords and culminating in the return of Sinai to Egypt, Jordan had to withstand greater pressure. In addition, the Rabat Summit Conference of 1974 recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinians. This again created many role identification problems for Jordan. Jordan is somehow continuously caught in a Catch-22 situation. If it opts to follow the resolution in letter and spirit, it would be open for criticism of abandonment. If it chooses a more practical path, it is exposed to encroachment and recriminations.

No one should deny the fact that Jordan is morally, geographically, economically, politically, socially and militarily committed to the West Bank and to a lesser degree to the Gaza Strip. The 1974 Rabat resolution was meant to boost the PLO and the Palestinian identity everywhere as expressed through the PLO. Yet no one has ever gone through the strenuous exercise of delineating the lines of responsibility and authority of the concerned parties as a result of that 1974 resolution. Matters were left to be determined *de facto*; but *de jure* the issue is as ambiguous now as it was in 1974, if not more.

However, if we are unable to interpret the 1974 Rabat resolution and what it means in terms of rights and commitments, we can at least attempt to identify the things which it did not mean. These are:

First: Jordan's role in the Palestinian issue cannot be marginalised. We cannot speak of Jordan's role as we speak of Djibouti's. Jordan still pays and contributes to the sustenance and maintenance of a decent standard of living allowable under occupation. To say that Jordan should, for instance, close the bridges with the West Bank is tantamount to surrendering the land to the Israeli authorities.

Second: The Camp David Accords wanted to define a role for Jordan in a partly occupation-free West Bank territory. That role, however, was rejected by Jordan because it was assigned the role of a policeman and because, regardless of the role, Jordan had no say in defining it.

Third: Jordan has continuously acknowledged the role of the PLO, in accordance with the Arab summit resolutions. Political and administrative coordination and cooperation has continued. Yet when it comes to political possibilities, Jordan must act pragmatically. Any serious deviation from this work cannot be accepted by Jordan because such an acceptance would mean the promise of achieving the impossible. Jordan cannot be expected, on the grounds of its relations with the West, to achieve every political aspiration of the PLO if the PLO itself is not willing to accommodate.

Fourth: The freeing of political coordination between Jordan and the PLO should not stifle movement. The world does not wait; it moves, acts and reacts according to a set of circumstances and vested interests.

Fifth: There is the painful reality that the Israeli occupation does not cease to take daily steps leading to the annexation of the land. The Israeli right-wing is now dominating the political scene and squeeze the less hawkish elements to follow. Any relaxation in Arab efforts, Jordan's in particular, would be a boost to the Israeli hawks and would help them implement their plans of total annexation.

Sixth: Jordan is a "centrist" country in mood, action and reaction. This philosophy and attitude can be very painful in a world which tends to radicalism and pseudoradicalism. Yet, it can be rewarding as it did in the last Arab summit conference in Amman. The "centrist" role is most useful and it should be strengthened by strengthening Jordan's political profile. To try to disintermediate Jordan is in effect an act that can be described as "dubious" to say the least. Those who benefit from suffocating "positive centrism" are the ones who benefit from irrational radicalism and want to keep the area in disarray, an ideal situation from which they can benefit.

It is in the light of these points that we must address our guest, Mr. Claude Cheysson. We must impress upon him the fact that Jordan cannot accept pressure which would lessen its moderating role in the Middle East. To make statements that the EC, where he holds a key position, should deal directly with the occupied territories through Israeli red tape and outlets is a very serious matter. Whether said in good will or not, it paves the road for further polarisation of the Israeli position and exposes Jordan's security to incalculable dangers. The EC has adopted very rational and balanced resolutions and the spirit of Venice should not be stabbed in the back. Any aid going to the West Bank must be channelled through Jordan, and in full cooperation with its competent authorities. To diverge funds directly to the West Bank cannot be a neutral act, because it will be used by the Israelis and would give them a bigger chance to channel such funds in a manner that would enhance the occupation.

Moreover, an analyst should not disregard the fact that if the EC or any other party channels its aid to the occupied territories without prior arrangement with Jordan, it will in effect satisfy the radical elements in the PLO who call for the elimination of Jordan's role in the whole Palestinian affair. Thus, radical elements in the PLO and rightist radicals in Israel would be given a chance to converge against centrist national positions.

Jordan has always honoured its commitments to the occupied territories, and has sought only to shoulder its human and moral responsibilities. It has never sought to utilise the issue for political gains. However, this in no way means that Jordan can sit idle and watch the potential growth of an autonomous entity nurtured by the Israelis on its borders. We should keep in mind what the Israelis are doing in South Lebanon and what they have done in the Golan Heights.

Mr. Cheysson should realise that we want firm relations with the EC based on mutual respect. Any statements or acts which may undermine Jordan's position and pivotal role in the Arab World should be reconsidered.

Middle East peace process postponed

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

IT SEEMS more inevitable now than ever that the peace process in the Middle East must take a pause till the outcome of both the national elections in Israel and the presidential elections in the U.S. become known. This is not only the judgement of seasoned and veteran statesmen and politicians as ex-President Jimmy Carter and Israeli minister without portfolio Ezer Weizman but rather the conclusion arrived at by most knowledgeable observers of the Middle East scene. With the leaders of the two superpowers pre-occupied with nuclear disarmament concerns, other global issues and some regional hotspots other than the Palestinian case, it is now a foregone conclusion that the 7th of December summit between them will not conclusively touch on the Palestinian case or on the elusive international conference on peace in the Middle East. The focus of attention is now on the follow-up summit between the leaders of the two superpowers which is slated to occur next summer as the venue for the discussion of the Palestinian situation and the means to resolve it. This is not to mention the iron-clad commitment by incumbent Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that the projected international conference will not see the light of day as long as he was the prime minister. Over and above all the preceding considerations is the Gulf situation which has figured most prominently on the agenda of the recently concluded Arab summit in Amman. There is no doubt that the signal to the world that for as long as the Iran-Iraq war continues, it will continue to receive the lion's share of the Arab leaders' attention and care. In other words, the arrangement of priorities on the agenda of the Amman summit has clearly served as the barometer of Arab interests in the order perceived by the Arab leaders. The superpowers were the first to conclude that now was not the time to push feverishly the peace process in the Middle East. The rest of the world will surely too gauge Arab priorities on the basis of what had transpired at the Amman summit.

But all these propositions should not lead us to conclude that all is lost when it comes to the peace process in the Middle East and that there is nothing to be done now pending the convening of the next summer summit between Reagan and Gorbachev and the outcome of elections in Israel and the United States. On the contrary there is a lot to be done, from now until then, to lay the solid ground work for the peace process in the Middle East when it becomes opportune to have it kicked off once again in earnest in the wake of the principal events of 1988. In other words the seeds for success or failure of the peace process in the Middle East will be sown in the course of 1988. How the Arab Nation plays its cards

from now on till the end of next year will surely have a great bearing on the those determinative events slated to occur in the course of the time factor between "now" and "then."

To begin with the U.S. presidential elections will be in full swing in the early part of 1988 when the primaries for the Democratic and Republican presidential nominations will take place. On the eve of those primaries there will be, of course, the Democratic and Republican Conventions during which the political platforms of both principal political parties will be debated, elaborated and finally articulated. During all these processes, there is a lot that the Arab World can do, not in terms of interfering with them, but rather in terms of influencing them. The recently concluded Arab summit in Amman with its remarkable positive results was clearly a step in the right direction as far as influencing U.S. political thinking during the politically over charged year of campaigning and elections starting with the primaries and culminating in the presidential elections next November. If the Arab leaders can manage to have their ordinary summit in the first half of 1988 so much the better for assuring optimum influence on the course and development of U.S. national mood and stance on issues affecting the Middle East and the Arab Gulf region. Of course the Arab World cannot stop there for there will be other avenues and opportunities which could and should be exploited to convey the "right" signals to the potential national political leaders in the United States, and their constituencies. Surely how the Arab World conducts itself not only with respect to the various global and regional issues but also with respect to Arab domestic concerns as well, will have a profound effect on the U.S. national orientations and perspectives on matters that touch us most. If the Soviet Union with all its might and clout accords the U.S. mood and political thinking one of its highest priorities, surely, the Arab Nation should do likewise and start giving U.S. public opinion its due.

On the Israeli scene, the political situation there is also susceptible to influence. Not that Arab fate and future should be made to hinge on what goes on within Israeli body politic, but rather to advance the Arab cause and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinians in particular and the Arabs in general in the same way that the Soviet Union attempts to promote its view point and outlook on the American scene. Whether the Arab Nation seeks peaceful ways to resolve its conflict with Israel or military means, the course and development of Israeli political thinking and the formation of national political mood within Israel should

remain at all times among our prime concerns and objectives. There is no doubt that how we in the Arab World play our cards vis-a-vis Israel will have an infinite effect on the outcome of their periodic national elections and will have an immense bearing on their strategies and perspectives regionally and even globally. To begin with there is always the reservoir of Arab body politic within Israel proper yet to be tapped. The Arabs of Israel constitute over one sixth of the total Israeli population and the Arab electorates number about 350,000. It is calculated that such a vast number of voters, could determine the outcome for more than ten seats in the Israeli Knesset. This is indeed a formidable political power and clout especially if one recalls that the ultra orthodox religious parties in Israel which continue to manipulate the makeup and composition of coalition governments in Israel control less than ten seats in the Knesset. The least that the Arab countries should do is to start establishing bridges with the Arabs of Israel with a view to influencing and even directing their vote in such a way as to advance their "peaceful strategies" should they decide and determine that, that is their most viable option at this time. Conceivably, the Arab vote in Israel can still be utilised even if the peaceful process in the Middle East is bogged down and becomes permanently and irrevocably flawed and doomed, and becomes replaced by the military option. But be that as it may, there is a consensus among knowledgeable observers of the Israeli scene to the effect that the average Israeli voter is still basically susceptible to the signals emanating from the Arab World with the exception of those die-hard ultra extreme Zionists within the ranks of Israeli body politic. Should the Gulf war end before the next scheduled Arab summit is convened and the Arab-Israeli conflict is upgraded once again to the position which it has always held on Arab agenda, and the Arab leaders reach the kind of unanimity on the Palestinian case which they appeared to have accomplished in Amman two weeks ago, then they can succeed in sending the right signal at the right time to the Israeli voters to cast their votes next winter in the direction of reasonableness and fairness.

To sum up there is still a great deal to be done in order to create the "culture and environment" favourable to the Arabs and the understanding of their grievances and concerns. One would wish that some sort of a "think-tank" be recruited by Arab states to assist them in the elaboration and articulation of policy guidelines for them to pursue in the promotion and advancement of Arab national causes along the lines suggested above.

Verification — that's the name of the game

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuter

LONDON — A new word has entered the lexicon of superpower relations. It is "verification" and it has fast become one of the most important words of all.

In the language of U.S. and Soviet officials, it means measures to check that the other side is complying with an arms control agreement.

To its supporters, verification makes the difference between a good agreement and worthless one. Critics say it has more to do with political in-fighting in Washington between those who oppose any arms accord with Moscow and those who favour one.

The last problems before agreement was finalised last week on the medium-range missile treaty that U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will sign at next month's summit were caused by the verification clauses.

"There's been a long history of disputes over compliance," said a U.S. arms control official. "It's a problem of mistrust, of reassuring people. We can't have too much verification."

Verification was first raised as a serious problem by the United States, and arms experts trace it back to the U.S.-Soviet SALT-2 strategic arms limitation treaty signed in 1979.

That treaty was never ratified by the U.S. Senate. Officially, President Jimmy Carter withdrew it from the agenda because of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, but the agreement in any case did not appear to have enough support to get through. The Reagan administration, which took office in 1981, charged that SALT, which depended on spy satellites to monitor compliance with missile limits, failed to ensure that the Soviet Union would respect it.

It has since accused Moscow of major violations of the pact. Now that it has negotiated an arms control treaty of its own, the administration knows it needs strict verification provisions to get it ratified. Some senators remain hostile to the accord. Arms negotiators boast that the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) pact that Reagan and Gorbachev are due to sign in Washington at their meeting from December 7 to 10 will contain "the most stringent verification regime in the history of arms control."

The treaty and its annexes run to nearly 200 pages — more than all previous U.S.-Soviet arms control treaties put together — and much of that is taken up with verification.

The key measure is "on-site inspection" — having teams of inspectors visit the other country to ensure that it has the number of missiles it says it has, and watch them being destroyed in accordance with the terms of the treaty.

This is far more intrusive than satellites, which could easily

photograph missile silos in the old days of fixed missiles but have more difficulty with today's smaller, mobile and more easily concealed systems.

The Soviet Union resisted on-site inspection until last year when Gorbachev said he could accept it and pointed out to Americans that verification was a two-way process and Moscow would insist on equal rights.

David Aaron, who was Carter's deputy assistant for national security affairs, wrote recently in the New York Times: "When Soviet negotiators formally accepted on-site inspection it caused deep anxiety to many within the American government, who had never dreamed the Russians would agree."

When Gorbachev said last July that he agreed to abolition of all INF missiles, instead of the previous plan for each side to keep a few, Washington scaled down some verification demands.

"It is obviously very much easier to verify that nothing exists, and therefore anything you find is illegal," Robert Simmons, one of the U.S. negotiating team, explained in a recent interview with the United States Information Agency.

The verification measures in the treaty will keep hundreds of U.S. and Soviet inspectors busy until the end of the century. They will start off by checking that deployed INF missiles correspond to figures exchanged in advance.

The inspectors will later watch as the missiles and their launchers are destroyed by agreed methods over a three-year period.

Egypt: The constraints on revolution

By Lillian Craig Harris

A SPATE of bold attacks this year by Islamic political activists has increased Western fears that Egypt may be on the verge of religiously inspired upheaval.

The mounting popularity of fire and brimstone mosque preachers and the growth of the *Gamaat al-Islamiya* are ominous developments. It would seem prudent to ask whether Egypt could not fall prey to an Iranian-inspired Islamic revolution.

Clearly, Egypt has entered a period of economic and political crisis which is certain to be prolonged and probably at times bloody. Religious revivalism feeds off economic and social distress — of which Egypt has plenty. Severe urban crowding puts pressure on all aspects of social and economic life: economic stagnation has only been temporarily ameliorated by this year's agreements with foreign lenders, and society is increasingly polarised between rich and poor, rural and urban, Muslim and Copt.

But, despite these negative bellwethers, the possibility that the present political system will be violently overthrown by religious zealots remains remote. Though the Egyptian political system is flawed, it has demonstrated considerable powers of continuity even during times of national crisis. There is no evidence that it is about to be popularly rejected in favour of an Islamic republic. Nor is there evidence that the Egyptian government cannot continue — barring unforeseen circumstances — to cope effectively with dissent. Built in restraints will almost cer-

tainly prevent a repeat of the Iranian fundamentalist revolution in the most populous Arab state.

First, as the Egyptians themselves frequently point out, Egyptians are not Iranian Shi'ites. The Iranian revolution had as catalyst the religious beliefs and unique historical and cultural experience of the Iranian people and is probably not repeatable elsewhere. Though there is much to fear from the violent tactics propounded by some of Egypt's modern Islamic "reformers," Egypt is protected by lack of the nationwide structure of administrative imams which facilitated transfer of power in Iran from a secular to a religious hierarchy.

Even more important, the emphasis on martyrdom which drives Shi'ite Islam in its more virulent form is considerably muted in Sunni Islam. It is doubtful that the pragmatic Egyptians could ever be inspired to die as willingly as the Iranians continue to do in their thousands. Certainly the Egyptians, who frequently speak with abhorrence of social upheaval, do not "love" violence or typically resort to it as a solution.

The Egyptians, furthermore, benefit from the negative examples of those who have walked the stony path of Islam as political theory. News of Iranians rioting in Saudi Arabia during this summer's pilgrimage was widely received in Egypt with appalled revulsion — as have been accounts of grisly oppression by the ayatollahs of their political opponents and use of human wave tactics in the war with Iraq. Closer to home, Egyptians are

shocked by what is going on in Sudan.

Many Egyptians have turned to religion for solace and for reaffirmation of identity in a time of deepening economic crisis and social disruption — a major reason for widespread return to traditional dress. But Egyptians are sharply cynical when it comes to politics. Believing no one who offers utopia, whether based on secular or sacred principles, most Egyptians prefer to mind their own business rather than interfere in government — either by joining a religious group which advocates violent opposition or, for some 75 per cent of the population, even by voting in this year's parliamentary elections. Widespread political passivity is, in fact, an ally of the internal security forces though it does not bode well in the long run for Egypt's democratic development.

Another constraint to revolution can be credited to the Mubarak regime which (unlike the shah's) has opened political pressure valves for a vocal minority by increasing avenues of political expression — if not always unimpeded political participation. Some have argued that new leniency allowing representatives of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood to serve in the National Assembly under the guise of coalition with legitimate political groups has facilitated the work of the extremists.

Ironically, Egypt's dependence on external economic aid is probably as much a restraint to structural political change as it is a goad to anti-Western activists. Egypt has no outstanding indige-

nous income source, such as Iranian petroleum, and despite popular grievance over perceived foreign attempts to manipulate Egypt economically and politically, necessity strengthens the hand of those who reject repudiation of the West and its capital. Other significant deterrents to widespread Egyptian acceptance of any dogma which contradicts much that is basic to modern thought and commerce are Egypt's historical ties and physical proximity to Europe — which have produced closer cultural ties to Europe than Iran ever had.

Finally, the geography of Egypt militates against successful popular uprising. The desert which embraces the Nile Valley on both sides has always been the central authority's chief ally in repressing revolt. Though the size of underground Islamic groups, such as the *Takfir wal-Hijra* which assassinated Sadat, remains unknown, the government can still curtail, if not halt, radical activities.

What, then, of Egypt's future? Anti-government violence could be sparked by deprivation and outrage, as it was in the spectacular 1977 bread riots. Early this year, poorly paid members of the Central Security Forces rioted in Cairo when their terms of service were arbitrarily increased. Aware that the limits of popular discontent have yet to be seriously tested, the government moves cautiously to implement reforms, including reductions in subsidies to basic foods, which are critical to Egypt's economic recovery.

— Middle East International, London.

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Effective, simultaneous action must be sought to end Mideast region's conflicts

The following is the speech delivered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the Opening of The Euro-Arab Dialogue III that opened in Amman on Nov. 29.

THE EXTRAORDINARY summit of the League of Arab States held in Amman between 8 and 11 November 1987, has been hailed as a triumph for Jordanian diplomacy by friend and foe alike. Modest as we are in Jordan, we graciously acknowledge this assessment and express our thanks to all. However, what was at stake was not Jordanian diplomacy. At stake was the collective Arab will which had been riven by conflict, strife and mistrust. The fact that no full Arab summit could be convened for five years prior to the Amman meeting spoke volumes for the tragic state of inter-Arab relations. The Arab leaders came to Amman and their countries' security threatened, their territorial integrity questioned and the survival of their states challenged. They were apprehensive about the present and uncertain about the future. The question of Arab collective security was staring them in the face, demanding immediate and comprehensive action to protect the Arab order and preserve its distinct identity.

It was not just the Iranian threat to Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. It was not just the Israeli challenge to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, but a peril that confronts them collectively, and they had to act as such, to avert the danger. They rose to the challenge. The leaders of the Arab states agreed at Amman to transcend all differences and resolve the causes of their disunity and inaction.

The Amman summit marks a turning point in the history of inter-Arab relations. The reconciliation between Iraq and Syria and the shared perception of the need for an early implementation of 598 must be seen as a significant facet of the Arab World's resolve to end the senseless slaughter, wanton destruction and waste of precious human and material resources. The war must come to an end as all wars do; and the sooner the better, so that these resources can be better deployed towards reconstruction and development.

The spirit of the Amman meeting must be preserved so that the political framework worked out for the implementation of collective Arab action can take shape and become a tangible reality. There will be no limit to inter-Arab political cooperation as all the major differences among the Arab states have been eliminated. The effective implementation of the summit resolutions will provide the best mechanism for the preservation of Arab solidarity. The interdependence of Arab resources and interests in the political as well as economic fields has been the guideline to the resolution of inter-Arab disputes. In the past this work was interrupted for lack of the political will to carry it through, and the absence of coordination among the various participants. This problem is to be rectified. A joint Arab team, formed earlier, will submit its report on the regional integration of the Arab countries. It is hoped that this report will provide a new strategy for Arab economic and political cooperation so that a new basis for inter and intra-regional collaboration may be laid and followed.

Proud as we are of our Arab achievement at Amman, we were just as heartened to see that the peace machinery of the world body has been given a new lease of life. Superpowers cooperation and the unanimous vote on Security Council Resolution 598 and the Gulf war has injected a fresh impetus in the work of the U.N., and given us a new hope at last the two superpowers

have agreed to grapple with world problems in earnest and jointly. Their collaboration in this field is certainly long over-due. We Arabs have always impressed on various figures and representatives of the U.S. and the USSR the desperate need for such joint action to defuse the highly explosive situation in the Middle East, and assist in the resolution of all outstanding conflicts in our troubled region. The

There will be no limit to inter-Arab political cooperation as all the major differences among the Arab states have been eliminated.

Arab summit resolution in support of 598 is a clear indication that the Arab World in its entirety demands the implementation of these provisions.

We have long recognised that the danger implicit in the Gulf war goes beyond the two immediate adversaries: Iraq and Iran. It threatens the stability and the security of the entire region. The insidious perils of fragmentation and radicalisation entailed in the fundamentalist religious campaigns undermines the very fabric of sovereign state system in the Middle East. Moreover, the strategic importance of the Gulf and the magnitude of its oil resources, coupled with the threat of escalation of the war has led to the deployment of considerable naval forces: American, Soviet and European, adding to the risks

No one in the U.S., or in Europe for that matter, has asked the question as to what it is that the American naval task force in particular is supposed to be doing in the Gulf.

of touching off a wider conflagration.

The presence of these naval forces is of considerable interest and concern to all of us. What is so mystifying is the purpose of this presence. No one in the U.S., or in Europe for that matter, has asked the question as to what it is that the American naval task force in particular is supposed to be doing in the Gulf — there are basically four questions:

1. Is it there to protect Kuwaiti ships?
2. Is it there to guarantee the freedom of navigation in international waters?
3. Is it there to contain Iran's war and its quest for hegemony over its neighbours?
4. Is it there to check Communist penetration of the region and limit Soviet influence?

One thing is clear. It cannot be all these things at the same time. While the protection of Kuwaiti ships is necessary and desirable it becomes rather paradoxical to do that, and allow American-owned ships to be attacked by the Iranian revolutionary guards. Moreover, to guarantee freedom of navigation is not compatible with the containment of the Iranian war effort since Iran would be able to export its oil without interference. Increased oil export will inevitably mean increased revenues which will in turn lead to improvement of the Iranian war machine and its capabilities. Meanwhile, the Americans do not show the kind of resolve that would deter Iran from pursuing its war aims for fear of driving Iran into the Soviet orbit. We really can no longer afford this kind of instant reactive diplomacy of doing things first and finding the explanation for it afterward. We must have a well-thought out, coherent and comprehensive policy which addresses itself to

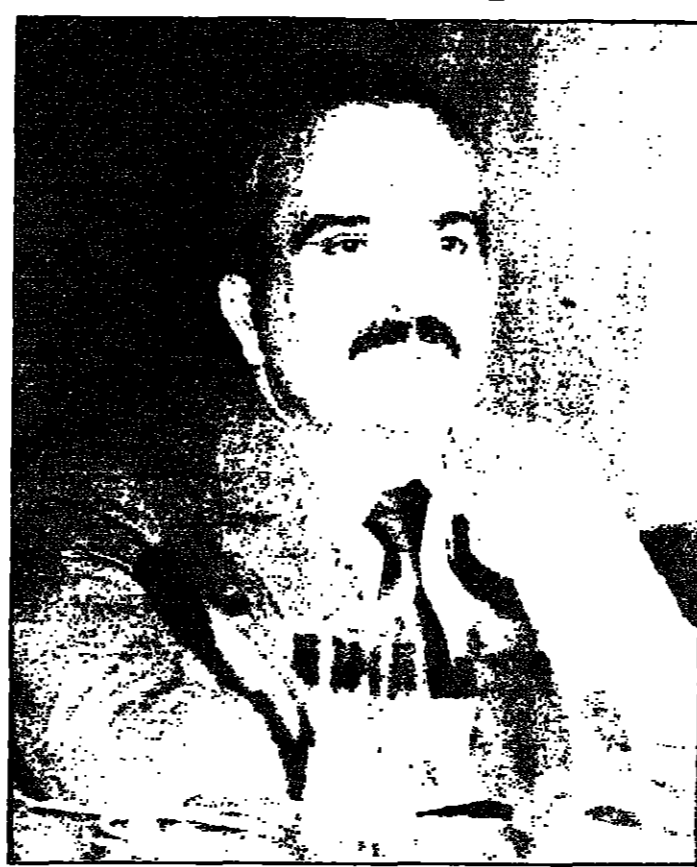
the problems of the region rather than deal with their symptoms all the time.

It is imperative that there should be no complacency and delay in the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598. We should not allow ourselves to be mesmerised by the consensus achieved either at Amman or the U.N. Security Council that this unanimity becomes an end in itself. It provides the means for effective action not only relating to the Gulf, but also on other important and explosive disputes. There is a serious risk in the widely expressed view that all other disputes in the region have been overshadowed by the Gulf war, which must now await the outcome of superpower cooperation to resolve it before other outstanding problems are addressed. It is hoped that the Secretary General of the U.N. would increase his effort and capitalise on the current collaboration to impress upon the Security Council that other conflicts are not left in abeyance and should be tackled simultaneously. Allowed to drift these disputes become more complex and intractable to the detriment of all concerned.

Increased effort and resolve become even more necessary when differences in perception whether in the Arab World or between the two superpowers on the nature and the extent of the U.N. resolution and its provisions, coupled with the determination of the Iranian leadership at the top to prosecute the war to its bitter end against Iraq are taken into consideration. They must not be allowed to paralyse the peace machinery of the U.N. Failure in this regard would mean that the region is condemned to continuous war and destruction. Such an outcome would inflict untold damage on the peacemaking machinery of the world and put into sharper focus the credibility of Arab leadership and the role of the superpowers. More directly it would put an end to the useful work and progress which the Arabs have made toward the promotion of peace and good neighbourliness in this troubled region.

It is imperative that the problems of the Middle East are addressed at a regional level. The Iran-Iraq conflict bears many similarities to the Arab-Israeli dispute. In some ways they are directly related and cannot be separated. Iran occupies a geo-strategic position of considerable importance and what happens to that country as well as to the region would have much wider repercussions than merely the general concern with the free flow of oil supplies to the West, or the Western strategic advantage over the Soviet Union, both of which may prove marginal and ephemeral factors. As such Iran should not be allowed to use its important strategic position as Israel has exploited its close alliance with the United States to vitiate all international action. Diplomatic immobility has its own dangers. Thus constructive cooperation between the two superpowers which ought to be pressed upon them and supported is essential for the success of the U.N. effort, regional security and world peace.

The Amman summit devoted some time to the question of Egypt's readmission to the political councils of the Arab World. It is incomprehensible that when Arab leaders are looking into the problem of Arab national security, Egypt, the most popular and potentially the most powerful Arab state, should be kept out. The rush to establish diplomatic relations between Egypt and several other Arab states in the wake of the Amman summit is an indication of the importance the Arab states attach to Egypt. Joint Arab strategy and defence is likely to be as effective without Egypt



We have long recognised that the danger implicit in the Gulf war goes beyond the two immediate adversaries: Iraq and Iran. It threatens the stability and the security of the entire region.

as the Western alliance is without the United States or the Warsaw Pact without the USSR. Moreover, whether in the fold or outside it, Egypt has not shirked its pan-Arab responsibilities. She has remained a staunch champion of the Arab cause, whether in Palestine, in Lebanon or the Gulf. In peace and in war, Egypt can be relied on for support and assistance in the Arab World.

The peace achieved between Egypt and Israel provides the universally accepted precedent for the implementation of the cardinal equation embodied in U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 of exchanging peace for territory. Egypt has evolved its commitment to the proposal for an international peace conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of all the parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli dispute and attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council. As we seek a middle path in the face of cynical extremes, Europe and many other parts of the world, have become our partners in this endeavour. It is the only proposal that keeps the peace process in the Middle East alive and viable. Egypt's role and interest provide an important element in that process. It will heighten the desire for peace, improve the capability for development and reconstruction, and act as a stabilising force in this highly volatile region.

Regional peace and Arab security must be underpinned by economic growth and development to increase the wealth and prosperity of all our peoples. National wealth, as you all know, is not measured by the possession of healthy balances in foreign banks. It is, essentially, the acquisition of a national capacity to organise and produce goods and services in order to generate a surplus of both. For these specific purposes a competent management of Arab economic affairs has to be obtained and developed. The problem which needs to be tackled is the lack of a complementary economic strategy that serves the economic interests on a regional level. Inequality in resources, income and wealth is a cause for resentment, recrimination, instability and discord not only within our region but also between the various regions of the world.

The recent crash of the world financial markets came swiftly in the wake of the World Bank

annual meetings in Washington in late September. It is ironic that the need for increased international cooperation and coordination in dealing with the major economic issues facing the world was the overriding theme of the Washington meetings. Recriminations, accusations and counter-accusations of responsibility for the recent upheaval are increasingly coming out in the open amongst the leading industrial nations. West European countries blame it on the mismanagement of the U.S. economy, while the Americans are critical of the policies of other countries such as West Germany and Japan for the massive trade surplus they have enjoyed over the years. What is clear is that the three ugly sisters of external debt, exchange rates and trade imbalances which were on the agenda of the World Bank meeting have been joined by a fourth — the crisis in the financial markets.

In many instances, Arab countries have been disadvantaged by the ability of the advanced coun-

tries to coordinate their economic and political policies, and thus achieve maximum bargaining positions. Apart from oil a recent example is the exploitation of the situation in the Gulf by certain European countries in relation to the EC-GCC dialogue on petrochemical industries. The EC has conveniently divided the Arab World into three main sub-groupings that cover almost all Arab countries: The Maghreb, Mashreq and GCC. Separate negotiations between the EC and each of those groups have taken place without coordination among them, and sometimes to the detriment of all concerned. Arab countries can equally suffer as by-standers in probable triangular split and a global economic cold war that is emerging more openly amongst the USA, Western Europe and Japan.

The high hopes that ensued from the Amman summit of 1981 and the declaration of the Arab Development Decade contrast sharply with the current inability of the Arab states to coordinate their economic policies in the face of an unstable and deteriorating international economic scene. Partial recovery in the major international financial markets will not erase the memory of the events following Black Monday on October 19th, when the stock exchanges of New York fell by 23 per cent, London by 20 per cent and Tokyo by 15 per cent, and the trend has continued despite the hurried measures taken to check the decline. How much Arab money was lost in that collapse is anybody's guess. The estimates are in billions of dollars. This clearly calls, amongst other things, for the revision of investment criteria for Arab capital in Arab countries.

Inter- and intraregional frameworks for development can be evolved through the identification of regional plans for different sectors based on a wide ranging pattern of complementarities. The establishment of the Trans-Arabian system, transporting oil from the Gulf across the Arabian Peninsula to the Red Sea, and through the Levant to the Mediterranean has knitted these areas more closely together than ever before. It has changed the nature and volume of trade and consequently the order of priority for economic development. The attempt to by-pass the strategic bottleneck of the Straits of Hor-

muz has given the Red Sea Basin and the East Mediterranean littoral additional strategic significance, which goes a long way towards explaining the immense interest expressed by the superpowers in the freedom of navigation in these sea lanes.

Moreover, the demographic dimension in this context is no less important. The presence and migration of manpower from Jor-

The Americans do not show the kind of resolve that would deter Iran from pursuing its war aims for fear of driving Iran into the Soviet orbit.

dan and the Levant to the countries of the Peninsula and the Gulf has given rise to an unprecedented pattern of complementarities in terms of shared human and financial resources. Thus events in one part of the region have a direct and immediate bearing on all others. A threat to the security of the Gulf emanating from the Iranian quest for hegemony will inevitably imperil the economies of the Fertile Crescent states, just as war with Israel could bring about the closure of the pumping stations or the shipping lanes, shutting off the flow of oil.

The regional linkages and complementarities mean that no state in the region can feel secure or isolated from developments elsewhere, nor can any country be

Joint Arab strategy and defence is likely to be as effective without Egypt as the Western alliance is without the United States or the Warsaw Pact without the USSR.

insulated from regional conflicts, however distant or parochial these may seem at first. The Arab-Israeli conflict, the crisis in Lebanon, the Gulf war and the other disputes simultaneously menace all the states of the region and world peace.

Jordan has been advocating the idea of regional and inter-regional programmes for economic development to overcome various discrepancies in the provision of

economic resources within a Eurasian framework. It seeks the integrated development of the Asian Rim of Europe or the European Rim of Asia in cooperation with Europe on the one hand and with countries of South Asia on the other. A plan of this kind can provide an answer to the political and economic problems of the most disturbed region in the world and forms the basis for closer linkages with Europe and Asia so that the balance of economic power does not shift too drastically in favour of the Pacific Rim countries.

It is abundantly clear that neither the political nor the economic problems of the region can be treated on bilateral bases as though they concern only Jordan and Israel, or Iraq and Iran. Therefore, a broader regional focus is required to eliminate primordial passions and overcome narrow concepts of national interests. While economic cooperation presupposes a degree of political stability and accommodation, it is equally true that one way of breaking out of the political straight jackets is to divert matters to common economic concerns. Inter-regional cooperation will provide a counterpoint to what may disdainfully be described as the "politics of gestures." Despite the devastation caused by wars and internal strife, there has been a marked increase in skills and wealth which need to be put to more constructive uses. A lasting solution to the problem of poverty and underdevelopment can only be found on the basis of integration in the world economy and not be looking inwards to narrow internal markets.

It is these factors which have prompted the notion of the Eurasian Rim of Asia and the need for closer cooperation between the member-states of the OECD and the countries of the Middle East, and between these countries and other regions in the world.

Clearly we must build a more integrated world to avoid the paradoxical situation of building mountains of food north of the Mediterranean while there is famine and starvation to the south of the same sea. Here again what is required is the political will to translate these ideas into tangible machinery to carry out the work. It is not an impossible task, and it is certainly worth the effort.

Experts assess impact and future course of Gulf war

(Continued from page 1)

rab position" reached at the Amman Arab summit. "Time has come when we have recognised the fact that we Arabs, in view of the (Iranian) revolution, are called upon to take common cause to develop a way to defend centrist politics," said.

Mr. Claude Chevesson, the European commissioner in charge of North-South relations, addressed Sunday's session. He described the outcome of the Amman summit as "certainly very significant event," and "a chance for all Arabs, even a country that was not present."

"I am deeply convinced that a future in Europe will depend on Arabs living in peace," Mr. Chevesson said, adding that the Arab position reached

during the summit "may be full of cracks... but it is there."

He said the "time has come when all issues (in the Near East) should be addressed... not only the occupation of territories, but the future of the Palestinian people who should enjoy their rights just like any other people in the world."

"We feel the European Community can bring a direct contribution through (providing) access to our market — the largest in the world — if neighbours can work together," he said. "There is a need for a common market in this part of the world, to try to go beyond disputes."

Dr. Ghassan Salameh, a Lebanese university professor working in Paris, argued in his later comments that containing the Gulf war at this stage and under the conditions of the Security Council ceasefire resolution was not in the interest of coun-

tries in the region.

He said that the Iranians were portraying themselves as a party which is exerting pressure towards exporting the revolution and that "they single out Iraq" as their target.

Dr. Salameh said that the Gulf Arab states portrayed Iranian attacks against them as different from those against Iraq and that they were trying to accommodate the challenge independent from Iraq. He pointed out that the Arab summit reserved the strongest words to lash at Iran in the context of its threats to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia rather than for its war with Iraq.

In discussions on future implications for the Gulf war, Mr. Ekhard Frhr Von Maltzahn of West Germany said that an arms embargo against Iran would not be effective to reach an end to the Gulf war. He said that Iran has self-sufficiency by developing its

own weapons industry and that it had the foreign currency to finance its war machine.

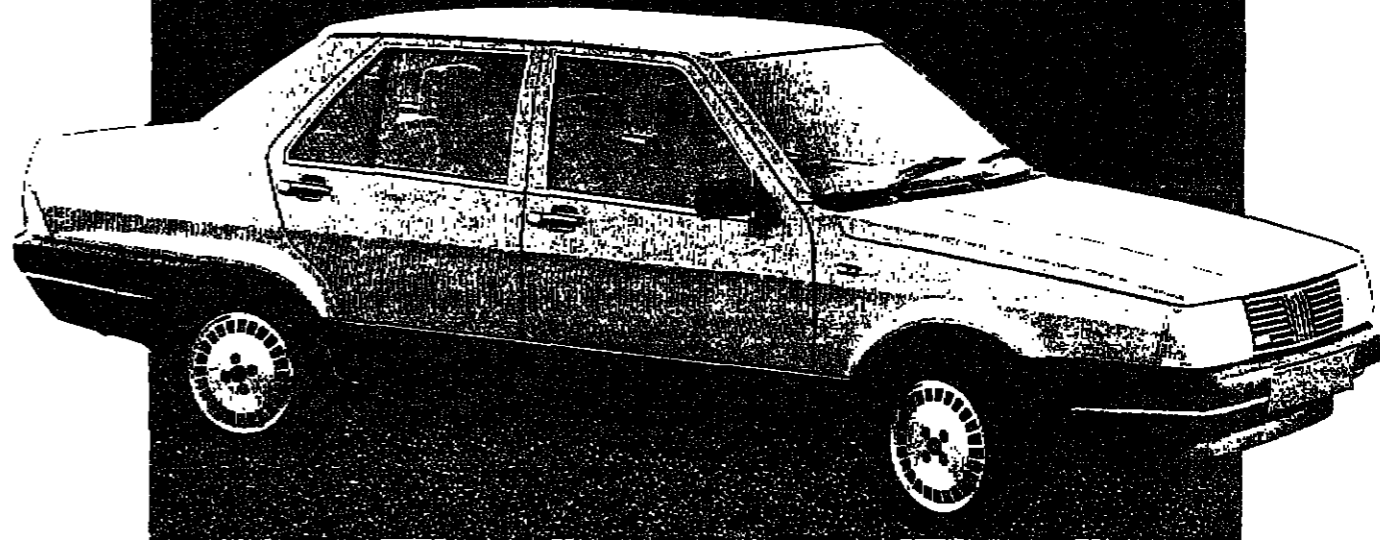
Ambassador Musa Amr of Egypt described the Iranian revolution as one of the most important events this area had witnessed in modern history and that it "will alter the political map" in the region.

He said superpower interests in the Gulf region were in serious conflict.

Mr. Philippe Moreau de Farges of the French Institute of International Relations said the war could not be put to an end by Security Council Resolution 598. He said the war had changed the societies in the region and that "inside this war, there are several other wars."

He explained that there was a war of a revolutionary regime (Iran) against a conservative regime. The first "seeking a change in the status quo and the other wants to keep it."

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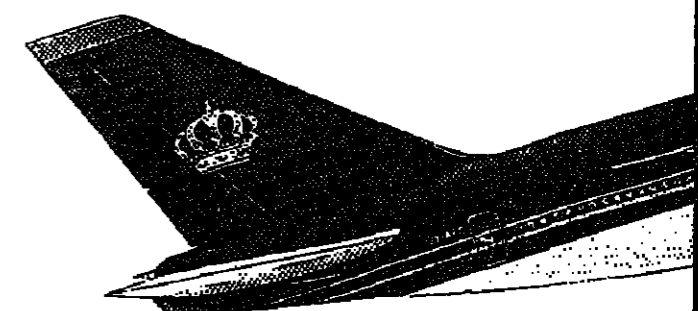
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ROYAL JORDANIAN

Setting new standards

Le Glorieux upstages Triptych, gallops to Japan Cup triumph

Southjet zooms to third slot, ahead of the French colt

TOKYO (R) — French colt Le Glorieux upstaged strong favourite Triptych to win the Japan Cup by three-quarters of a length from Southjet of the United States on Sunday.

Japanese outsider Dyna Actress was in third place, half a length back, while French entry Triptych finished fourth.

French jockey Alain Lequeux was proved right in his pre-race prediction that three-year-old Le Glorieux's outside starting position in the 2,400 metres (1½ mile) race would pose no problem.

He held Le Glorieux back in the pack during the early stages, leaving it to Japanese entry Legend Teio and then English colt and second favourite Moon

Madness to set the pace.

Moon Madness, ridden by Irish jockey and last year's Japan Cup winner Pat Eddery, led around the final bend, but as the field entered the straight Le Glorieux moved ahead two furlongs from the finish.

The French horse won in two minutes 24.9 seconds, just beating the 2:25.0 record mark by Eddery on England's Jupiter Island in the 1986 running of Japan's major international horse

showed a burst of strength in the final stretch.

Triptych had been fancied to triumph and become France's first winner of the cup in its seven-year history, but Hong Kong-based jockey Tony Cruz said the horse could not find the vacant space to make a spurt.

Its connections had also hoped for wet weather but in the event the race was run on firm turf in cool autumn weather under an overcast sky.

New Zealand-trained Australian gelding Our Waverly Star did not show much throughout the race and finished ninth. Australian jockey Mick Dittman said the five-year-old was out of control from the start.

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Irish driver wins Macao Grand Prix

MACAO (AP) — Martin Donnelly of Northern Ireland started from the pole position and led all the way on the twisting Guia street circuit Sunday to win the 34th Macao Grand Prix.

Donnelly, driving a Ralt RT31 Toyota, established a lead of several seconds early in the Formula Three event and never appeared seriously challenged, finishing more than seven seconds ahead of runner-up Jan Lammers of The Netherlands.

Bernd Schneider of West Germany had a bad start but battled back from 20th place to finish third, overtaking Britain's Julian Bailey on the 20th and last lap of the tricky 3.8 mile (6.1 kilometre) circuit.

Donnelly said he settled into a good rhythm after the first two laps and then "everything came quite easily."

Ciccarelli arrested for 'indecent exposure'

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minnesota (AP) — Minnesota North Stars right wing Dino Ciccarelli was arrested this week for alleged indecent exposure, the Eden Prairie police department says.

Ciccarelli, 27, was arrested Wednesday afternoon at his home in the Minneapolis suburb of Eden Prairie based on observations of a city police officer, police Capt. Jim Clark said in a news release Friday.

"The officer had been observing him due to complaints of previous indecent exposure and witnessed by a female resident," the news release said. "The case has been forwarded to the city attorney for issuance of a formal complaint."

City attorney Joseph Nilan could not be reached for comment at his home Friday night.

The North Stars said in a statement that they "have no comment at this time regarding Dino Ciccarelli's legal problems," and

referred questions to his attorney, Ron Simon.

Simon told the Associated Press on Friday night that Ciccarelli denies the allegation and is deeply upset by it.

"Dino's in a state of shock," Simon said. "We can't understand it."

Ciccarelli, according to his attorney, was ill and in the bathroom when he heard a noise in the adjoining garage and stepped outside to investigate, wearing only a sweatshirt and socks.

"He opened a small door leading from the garage to the outside. He didn't see anything," Simon said. "He then stepped outside a foot or two into a partially sheltered doorway."

"At this point, he observed a woman in a van parked in front of his next-door neighbour's house. She was looking up at him from about 200 feet (60 metres) away. At this point, he withdrew back into the doorway. Almost immediately thereafter, a police

officer suddenly darted into the doorway from nowhere.

Ciccarelli, Simon said, "has never set foot outside his house when he wasn't covered from the waist down. If a person did see him uncovered, it was without his knowledge and that person may only have been able to observe him by invading his privacy, by peeping into his house."

"What's going on here?" Simon asked. "We don't know."

North Stars' General Manager Lou Nanne, reached in Kalamazoo, Michigan, by the Star Tribune, said police notified him of the arrest Friday morning after a reporter asked police about it.

"We have no comment until we check into the background," Nanne told the Minneapolis newspaper. "The charge certainly isn't indicative of Dino's behaviour."

"If there is anything to it, we will certainly give Dino any kind of assistance he needs," Nanne said.

Cologne goes top as Bayern crashes at home

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich helped Cologne to leapfrog to the top of the West German First Division on Saturday when they dropped their first home points of the season, losing 3-1 to Borussia Dortmund.

Cologne, comfortable 4-0 winners over Karlsruhe on Friday night, moved up from third and took over the lead by virtue of having scored more goals than Werder Bremen who scrambled to a 1-0 win over Hanover.

Bayern, who were tied with the other two title challengers on 26 points before the weekend matches, had a nightmare going two down after 39 minutes to struggling Dortmund through Daniel

Simmes and Ingo Anderbruegge.

Klaus Augenthaler pulled one back on the stroke of halftime but, despite constant Bayern pressure in the second period, it was Simmes who broke away again to seal the issue two minutes from time.

There were only 11,500 in the Olympia stadium to witness the Bayern debacle.

Werder had to wait for a goal from Karl-Heinz Riedle six minutes from time to gain the expected home win over Hanover, even though the visitors played most of the match with 10 men. Stopper Heinz Kneue was sent off for a first-half foul.

The Bremen club still have a

game in hand over Cologne who owed much to Danish World Cup captain Morten Olsen.

The 38-year-old defender netted his first goal for the club in his 51st appearance to open the scoring after 27 minutes. A perfectly struck 20-metre effort rocketed into the top right corner.

Three goals in the last 20 minutes, including a Pierre Littbarski penalty, completed Karlsruhe's misery.

With Bayern losing their 100 per cent home record, it was appropriate that the league's only unblemished away record should go, too. Kaiserslautern picked up their first away points with a surprise 2-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt.

Soccer club members sentenced for corruption

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) —

More than 40 people associated with the Liaz Jablonec soccer club were tried by a district court for bribery and corruption and sentenced to jail terms of up to two years. Czechoslovak dailies reported Saturday.

The case involved eight officials, four employees, two coaches and 27 soccer players, the dailies said.

Sentences ranged from two months to two years, and some were given probation of one to four years, the dailies said.

The Third Division soccer club and its officials were accused of setting up a secret fund amounting to one million crowns (\$100,000), the Lidova Demokracie daily reported.

Gervacio wrests WBA title from Espinoza

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Julio Gervacio of the Dominican Republic scored a unanimous decision Saturday night to strip the World Boxing Association (WBA) junior featherweight title away from Louie Espinoza.

"I lacked experience," the new champion said moments after the fight. "I thought I could knock him out, but I decided instead to box with him."

The 20-year-old Gervacio, who has had 17 professional fights, knocked Espinoza to the canvas in the 12th and final round, but was unable to knock him out.

Gervacio, who now lives in San Juan, said, "There were those who thought I was too young to win a title."

Espinoza, of the United States,

refused to talk to the press following the defeat, but his manager, Paul Percifield, said: "My guy just got out-quickied."

All three Latin America-based judges gave Gervacio the decision. Humberto Figueroa of Panama scored the fight 116-113. Jesus Celis of Venezuela had it 116-112 and Angel Tovar of Venezuela scored it 117-114.

Gervacio started off fast in the first round by establishing his dominance over the champion with quicker hand speed. When the 25-year-old Espinoza stayed outside, Gervacio was able to stand flat-footed and land his punches almost at will.

The new champion finally took complete command of the fight in the 10th round when Espinoza

made a last desperate effort to come inside, where he had done well in the third, seventh and eighth round.

Gervacio landed solid left jabs and right-hand combinations. He also took the 11th round and then knocked Espinoza to the canvas with just five seconds gone in the 12th and final round.

Gervacio bloodied Espinoza's nose in the fourth round with a left jab and kept the blood flowing for most of the fight.

Gervacio had signed to fight Espinoza only two weeks ago when Bernardo Pinango of Venezuela, a former featherweight champion and ranked No. 1 in the division, withdrew from the scheduled title bout. Espinoza, so

confident of victory against Gervacio, had already signed to fight Pinango on Jan. 15.

With the victory, Gervacio, who was ranked seventh in the division but was moved up to fifth when he signed for the title bout, improved his record to 15 victories, no losses and two draws. Eleven of his victories have been by knockout.

Espinoza suffered his second defeat against 25 wins.

Both fighters had little difficulty making the weight limit, with Espinoza weighing 122 pounds (55.3 kilograms) and Gervacio 121.75 pounds (55.2 kilograms).

For the fight, Espinoza earned \$60,000 and the new champion \$15,000.

Pacers surge ahead in NBA after downing Seattle

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Chuck Person scored 15 of his 28 points in the first quarter to give Indiana the lead for good, and Vern Fleming had 24 points and 10 assists as the Pacers defeated Seattle 131-115 in the NBA Saturday night.

Seattle's Dale Ellis led all scorers with 29 points and Xavier McDaniel had 25 for the losers.

Bullets 124, Pistons 102

Darrell Walker and John Williams came off the bench to score six points each during a 26-10 second-half spurt that carried the Washington Bullets to a 124-102 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Williams was 7-for-9 from the field and matched his career high with 21 points, while Walker had a season-high 20 on 7-for-8 shooting. Isaiah Thomas and Adrian Dantley shared scoring honours

for Detroit with 22 points each.

Nicks 105, Cavaliers 93

Gerald Wilkins scored a season-high 27 points and the New York Knicks used three second-half scoring spurts en route to a 105-93 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Craig Ehlo led Cleveland with 19 points.

Hawks 124, Spurs 100

Randy Wittman scored 18 points, leading seven Atlanta players in double figures, as the Hawks defeated the San Antonio Spurs 124-100.

Dominique Wilkins, who missed Friday night's loss to Indiana because of a knee injury that Atlanta team officials feared might require surgery, played 25 minutes and scored 15 points.

Petur Gudmundsson led San Antonio with 21 points.

Bulls 98, Rockets 96

Michael Jordan and Rookie Horace Grant led a Chicago rally from a nine-point deficit in the fourth quarter as the Bulls outscored Houston 35-14 in the period and defeated the Rockets 98-96.

Jordan had 34 points and Grant had season highs of 19 points and 11 rebounds. Charles Oakley added 20 points and 17 rebounds for the Bulls.

Ralph Sampson had 19 points and Purvis Short 17 points as Houston lost for the fourth time in five games.

Bucks 112, Celtics 97

Paul Pressey scored 21 points, Terry Cummings added 20 and the Milwaukee Bucks ran off 10 straight points in the fourth quarter for a 112-97 victory over the

Boston Celtics.

Larry Bird scored 28 points for the Celtics, but had only two in the final quarter.

Nuggets 106, Mavericks 98

Alex English scored 25 points, becoming the all-time leading scorer in Denver's history, and Wayne Cooper added a season-high 23 to lead the Nuggets to a 106-98 victory over Dallas. English, in his ninth season at Denver, surpassed Dan Issel's franchise mark of 16,589 points late in the third quarter.

Kings 115, Sixers 114

Jawann Oldham scored five points in overtime, including the winning jumper with 25 seconds remaining, as the Sacramento Kings defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 115-114.

Reeson knocks out Ricci

WINDSOR, England (AP) — Britain's Sammy Reeson knocked out Italian-born Luigi Ricci of Belgium in the seventh round Saturday, to retain his European cruiserweight boxing title and line up a possible challenge to World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Carlos de Leon.

Reeson, beaten once in 24 fights, delivered a well timed right hook and Ricci was counted out of his feet, while clinging on to the ropes and facing the crowd.

Reeson's manager, Frank Warren, said after the fight at Blazer's nightclub on the outskirts of London, he was bidding to set up a match with the Puerto Rican world champion in London in March or April.

Fighting for the first time outside his country, Ricci was floored after only 48 seconds of the fight.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Weaver beats 'unbeaten' South African

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Former world heavyweight champion Mike Weaver of the United States scored a technical knockout Saturday night over previously unbeaten South African Johnny Du Plooy. Du Plooy, 23, has been touted by promoters as a "great white hope" who would be competing for a world title within the next few years. Du Plooy's handlers said the South African decided not to come out for the seventh round of the scheduled 10-round fight because of an injured left hand. His record drops to 17-1. Weaver, a 35-year-old native of Texas, lived up to his billing as Du Plooy's toughest opponent yet, scoring consistently with right jabs and hooks to the head.

Adgate beats Cerkovnik to take gold

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — American Cary Adgate bested Tomaz Cerkovnik of Yugoslavia to take the gold Saturday in the men's slalom event at America's opening pro cup at the Park City ski resort. The three-day event marks the first time the men's and women's U.S. professional tours have opened together, and it carries the largest U.S. pro tour purse ever at more than \$125,000. Adgate, 34, a two-time Olympian and six-time national champion, earned 35 points and a Rolex watch valued at \$10,450 in addition to his \$5,000 prize. An eight-year veteran who finished seventh overall last year, Adgate said he was surprised with his win.

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WILD CATS

Performances: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30, 13:30

First bodies found from doomed S. African plane

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The bodies of two of the 160 people feared dead in South Africa's worst civil air disaster were plucked from the Indian Ocean on Sunday, more than 24 hours after their Jumbo Jet crashed.

More bodies and debris were likely to be found from the South African Airways (SAA) Boeing 747 which plunged into the sea on Saturday while en route to Mauritius on a flight from Taiwan, Mauritius officials said. Weather was fine at the crash scene.

The search was hampered because the spot about 130 miles north east of Mauritius where the airliner was believed to have gone down was too far for search parties on the island to use helicopters, state-run radio South Africa said.

South African experts say recovery of the flight recorders which could provide clues to the cause of the disaster will probably be difficult because the aircraft crashed in 3,600 metres of water. The bodies of a male and a female, whose nationalities and

identities were not yet known, were recovered early on Sunday morning by a French naval vessel, La Grandiere, which joined the search from the nearby French island of Reunion.

Australian and U.S. aircraft have also taken part in the search.

The bodies will be taken to Mauritius for identification, SAA spokesman Nico Venter said.

Fragments of the aircraft and oil slicks have been seen in an area about a half-mile wide and six miles long. Radio South Africa said a radio signal apparently emitted by one of the aircraft's dinghies had been detected.

But airline officials said the dinghy emitted the signal automatically and there was still no sign of anyone having survived.

The cause of the crash remained a mystery. The only clue was the last message radioed by the veteran pilot, Capt. Dawie Uys, who reported smoke in the cockpit when the airliner was 10 minutes away from Mauritius.

Mr. Venter denied reports that the aircraft had left Taiwan late because of a bomb threat or technical problems.

Although departure from Taipei had been delayed by an hour, Mr. Venter said, this was in order to pick up connecting passengers and because of poor weather.

The airliner, designed to carry both freight and passengers, had previously suffered an explosion in an engine, but transport officials dismissed any link between that incident and the crash.

The worst previous disaster in South African commercial aviation was in 1968, when 122 people died in the crash of a Boeing 707 in Windhoek, capital of South African-ruled Namibia (South West Africa).

Gen. Galvin: Soviet military holds key to change

BONN (R) — NATO's new commander believes the Soviet generals hold the key to any change in Moscow's military strength whatever Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev may promise, a West German newspaper said on Sunday.

Welt Am Sonntag quoted Gen. John Galvin, supreme commander in Europe of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), as saying he saw "no reason for euphoria" in the signing of a U.S.-Soviet treaty to scrap medium-range nuclear weapons.

Gen. Galvin said in an interview that he had heard many speeches by Mr. Gorbachev and all contained various promises.

"But for me, the (Soviet) military is the key to the question of whether the wind has really changed," he said.

He said two dangerous factors had to be borne in mind — the Soviet military's doctrine of offence and training aimed at large forces winning ground quickly over great distances.

"When I consider these two factors I cannot find anything in them of the message Gorbachev is spreading," he added.

"Whether a reduction of East-West tension really comes to pass will be seen when negotiations on limiting conventional forces take place, which will hopefully be the case very soon."

Of Mr. Gorbachev's much-publicised reformist policies of openness (glasnost) and reconstruction (perestroika), Gen. Galvin said "Gorbachev has now written a book for the West. But the book that should really be read is that of the Soviet military."

"What are they doing? They have increased their efforts in the past five years, even under Gorbachev. He has done nothing to slow them down, apart from the INF (nuclear) treaty."

The purpose of the treaty is to withdraw all medium-range nuclear weapons from Europe and to decouple the United States from the other members of the (NATO) alliance, Gen. Galvin said.

"At the same time, the Soviets are strengthening their conventional forces. They are bringing more military supplies to the front, they introduce better fighter planes, new submarines are being launched. In nuclear weapons, they have introduced the SS-24 missile."

Death toll in Indonesia earthquake rises to 42

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The death toll from an earthquake in eastern Indonesia last week has risen to 42, with 75 people still missing, a spokesman of the governor's office said Sunday.

Sixty-three people were injured seriously and 38 others suffered light injuries in the quake, spokesman Fati Laubara said. The quake hit Nusatenggara Timur province on the island of Pantar last Thursday.

More than 1,200 homes, office buildings, schools, churches and mosques were destroyed by the tremor, which also caused large tsunami, or seismic waves, to

sweep onto the island. The epicentre of the quake was located in the Flores Sea, just a few kilometres north of the affected area.

The quake, which measured 5.8 on the Richter Scale, isolated more than 12,000 people in six villages from the rest of the island.

The Richter Scale measures the magnitude of a quake at its epicentre, according to seismographs. An earthquake of 5 on the Richter Scale is considered "very strong," and a 6 is "severe," capable of widespread damage near the epicentre.

Americans, Soviets see arms reduction as key summit issue

NEW YORK (R) — American and Soviet citizens see nuclear arms reduction as a key issue for their leaders to discuss at the coming summit but differ on the importance of other issues, a Newsweek poll found.

Seventy-eight per cent of the Americans and 86 per cent of the Soviets polled saw limiting strategic nuclear weapons as a "very important" issue for Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev to discuss at their Washington summit starting on Dec. 7.

On medium range and tactical nuclear weapons, 82 per cent of the Soviets saw it as a very

important issue while somewhat fewer Americans, 69 per cent, also called it very important.

Soviets were more confident their country would never be the first to use nuclear weapons, 88 per cent to 21 per cent of Americans, while only 41 per cent of Americans and nine per cent of Soviets were sure a U.S. first strike would never occur.

Virtually all the Soviets felt neither country should put weapons in outer space, 95 per cent agreeing and one per cent disagreeing, while 72 per cent of the Americans agreed and 23 per cent disagreed.

U.S. launches military payload on Titan rocket

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The United States has launched a powerful Titan rocket on Saturday night, which experts believed was carrying a secret military payload into orbit.

The 16-story, \$65-million Titan, one of five remaining in the U.S. Air Force inventory, was launched at 10:27 p.m. (0327 GMT), the air force said.

No advance announcement of the launch was made by the air force, which only confirmed its departure 10 minutes after blast-off.

The Titan launch, the second successful unmanned lift-off following two years of launch failures, was believed by experts to be carrying the latest version of an early warning satellite designed to warn the United States in the event of a Soviet nuclear attack.

The last successful Titan launch was at Vandenberg Air Force

Base in California on Oct. 27. Before that, Titan failures in 1985 and 1986 had grounded the Titan programme and continued a string of U.S. space failures that included the Challenger disaster in January 1986, in which seven astronauts were killed.

John E. Pike, head of space policy for the Washington-based Federation of American Scientists, told Reuters the Titan launched here carried "an early warning satellite, a defence support satellite."

Other space experts, who asked not to be named, confirmed Mr. Pike's view.

Mr. Pike said the satellite carried an "over-the-horizon" sensor which would allow the United States to pick up Soviet launches of missiles from beneath the Arctic ice pack.

It would be joining three primary satellites and two backup systems now in orbit, he said.

Polish referendum gets off to slow start

WARSAW (R) — Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski led a slow start to a national referendum on Sunday, casting his vote at a polling station set up in a neo-classical pavilion near his Warsaw residence.

Accompanied by his wife Barbara and several bodyguards, he solemnly cast his vote but made no comment to reporters before walking back home through a small park. A handful of other soldiers appeared to be unaware of what was going on.

Gen. Jaruzelski is seeking a mandate for radical economic reforms and offering apparent political concessions. The opposition has called the poll a pointless propaganda exercise.

Voting began at 6 a.m. (0500 GMT) but few people were on the streets of the capital in dull

weather by 9 a.m. Many people were enjoying a lie-in before getting ready for church.

One young doctor, who said she had voted because otherwise she faced trouble at work, reported that she was the first person to cast her vote at her local polling booth at 8.30 a.m.

The outlawed Solidarity union urged Poles to ignore the referendum.

According to the final opinion poll carried out by state television last week, 60 per cent of Poland's 26 million eligible voters said they would take part, 17 per cent said they would not and 23 per cent were undecided.

Among those not polled but definitely not voting was Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, who said he would spend the day "in the

bosom of my family" at home in the Baltic port of Gdansk after going to church in the morning.

The television poll said the government would scrape 51 per cent support for its economic package, whose most immediate effect is likely to be a doubling of food prices and trebling of rent and heating costs.

The government has promised to compensate some increases with higher salaries, but has not yet worked out specific details linked to a basket of goods which a Polish family typically buys each week.

The opinion poll said the authorities would gain slightly wider support — 53 per cent — on a second ballot question dealing with proposals for political and social changes.

Bhutto's party ends boycott of Pakistani polls

ISLAMABAD (R) — Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) ends an eight-year boycott on Monday when it contests national elections for 75,000 local councillors.

Since 1979, Pakistan's main opposition party has maintained that any electoral exercise under military President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq was rigged or illegitimate and refused to take part.

This time, after attempts to mobilise the masses outside the electoral process failed to dislodge Gen. Zia, Miss Bhutto has ordered the PPP followers into action.

Officially the elections are "non-party" — candidates who use party platforms, symbols or slogans face disqualification. But members are allowed to stand as individuals and the ruling Muslim League too sees the poll as something of a test of strength with the opposition.

Miss Bhutto's announcement that the PPP would sponsor and campaign for candidates it considered favourable provoked disagreements within the party and criticism from allies in the opposi-

tion Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD).

Many opposition activists, and some Western diplomatic analysts, say the party has little to gain and plenty to lose from fighting the elections.

"It's a no-win situation," Iqbal Haider of the small Quami Mahaz I Azadi opposition party said. "If it loses, its image will be shattered. It's too big a risk for too small a gain."

"She's picked the wrong election to fight," one diplomat commented. "A crushing defeat will harm the PPP's standing."

The PPP says it wants to give its cadres experience at fighting elections in advance of 1990, when parliamentary polls are due to be held.

"We want to put the regime to the test, sometimes through demonstrations, sometimes through the vote," Deputy Secretary-General N.D. Khan said. "If we decided not to contest, we'd be giving a walk-over to the Muslim League."

In 1985 the PPP campaigned hard for a boycott of non-party parliamentary polls, held under

martial law. Most deputies elected later formed the Pakistan Muslim League and the civilian government of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

The elections are for district and village councils and municipal committees throughout this nation of 100 millions.

Some opposition politicians fear that even if the PPP does well in the voting, its gains will later be eroded. The last time the party contested non-party local elections in 1979, many candidates elected with its support later defected and others were disqualified.

The opposition, already fiercely opposed to the concept of non-party elections, has alleged that widespread rigging is taking place to ensure a Muslim League win.

Local Government Minister Iqbal Ahmad Khan acknowledged on Saturday that complaints had been received and that some candidates had been threatened with disqualification. But he said many complaints had also come from government supporters.

COLUMNS 7&8

Whisky lovers drink fake Scotch

NEW DELHI (R) — Many Indian drinkers have been expensively swigging the wrong spirit from the right bottle. Police seized 131 bottles of fake Scotch and 470 empty bottles with corks and labels for premium brands like Johnnie Walker and Chivas Regal in a raid on a New Delhi factory, the Press Trust of India (PTI) has said. Police arrested a man who bought empty bottles from scavengers, filled them with local whisky and packaged them in look-alike cartons to sell for nearly 400 rupees (\$30) a bottle — more than four times the price of Indian whisky. India levies high duties on imported whisky, which sells for top prices in the black market.

Hunger strikers seek asylum in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Fourteen inmates at a New York immigration detention centre are engaged in a nearly weeklong hunger strike, demanding they be released while their applications for political asylum are reviewed. "We have a nurse on duty 24 hours a day" and, if necessary, the inmates will be fed intravenously, said Elizabeth Herskovitz, deputy assistant director for deportations at the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS). She refused to say whether the federal agency would honour their request to be freed. They began the hunger strike Monday. Stays in the detention centre can last up to two years. Officials said the hunger strikers, who came from Afghanistan, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, Liberia and Nicaragua, had been there an average of 11 months. They include three Iranian stowaways who leaped from the deck of a ship near the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in January. One of them, Mohsen Haharazadeh, said he was feeling weak and dizzy, and had lost 10 pounds (4.5 kg). "I had headaches, but I am getting used to it. The feeling is, we are going all the way," he said. The centre houses about 120 inmates whose immigration status is under review or who are appealing deportation orders.

Toddler phones for help

LONDON (AP) — Police have said they were worried about a little boy who made an apparently random phone call seeking help for his mother, but was unable to say who he was or where he lived. Police think he may have witnessed an attack on his mother. The boy, thought to be about 3, telephoned a house in the north London neighbourhood of Muswell Hill at 1 a.m. He told the man who answered that his mother and father had had an argument and that his mother was lying on the floor. The man's wife kept the toddler talking for half an hour while he went out to get the police. Police constable Helen Barnett, 21, arrived to speak with the child. "I kept him talking for as long as I could but it was not long enough to trace the call," she said. Miss Barnett pleaded with the boy to say his name but all she could get was that "his nanny" lived in London. She said, "He seemed upset. He kept saying, 'My mummy's on the floor. She's hot. Get her up.' After a while he seemed to get tired and said, 'good night nice lady' and blew kisses down the phone. ... It was very sad. There was nothing we could do. ... He could not have been more than about 3 years old," she said. Police said they do not believe the call was a hoax.

Moravia celebrates 80th birthday

ROME (AP) — Alberto Moravia, the Italian author famed for his works on the cynical sexuality and alienation of 20th-century Rome, has celebrated his 80 birthday with friends and his 33-year-old wife. "Festivities are always going on — and I don't like parties with cakes and candles," quipped Moravia during a televised birthday tribute called "79-plus-1" in which he was surrounded by friends who have interpreted his works, including Italian film director Lina Wertmuller, and wife Carmen Liera, a Spanish-born publicity agent he married in 1986. "Rome has been the background of many of my stories, but this city's lack of spirituality — Paris is the opposite — it's materialism, its heaviness, are the residues of a civilisation based on conquests and murder," said the author. The programme began with a reading from Moravia's early novel Agostino, which explores a 9-year-old boy's discovery of his mother's sexuality amid bourgeois surroundings. "For (19th-century French novelist Honoré de) Balzac, money was the key to literature. For me sexual relations have the same function," said Moravia, who was born as Alberto Pincherle into a middle-class Roman Jewish family and began his prolific literary career in the 1920s. He won international acclaim in 1947 with the novel "The Woman of Rome, whose screen version also launched the career of Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida. The 60-year-old actress has agreed to play in a re-make of the film. "I never think of death," says Moravia. "I am a man who has always lived in the present."

U.K. seizes £2m worth of cocaine

LONDON (AP) — Customs officers at Heathrow Airport arrested five Colombians on Sunday, one day after seizing £2 million (\$3.6 million) worth of cocaine in records and children's books. Customs officials said the four women and one man were on a British Airways flight from Bogota, the Colombian capital, to London, where they were to have boarded a flight for Switzerland. The records had been split so the drug, a total of seven kilos (15.4 pounds), could be inserted and the records reassembled. The work was done so skillfully, officers said, that the records could have been played. Dogs trained to sniff out drugs were used to check the luggage of passengers on the flight and they picked out four suitcases. Upon examining the luggage, customs officers found the records and children's books whose covers had been similarly split and reassembled. The arrested Colombians were questioned at Heathrow Airport on Saturday night and customs officers said charges were expected to be made.

Van Cliburn to play at White House

FORT WORTH, Texas (R) — Reclusive American pianist Van Cliburn will play in public for the first time in nearly 10 years at a White House dinner next month for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a spokeswoman has said. The pianist, who rocketed to international fame when he won the 1958 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, will play at the White House on Dec. 8, said Rice M. Tilley Jr., chairwoman of the Van Cliburn Foundation in Fort Worth. "He just feels the time is right," she said. "Russia means so much to him, as well as the cause of world peace." He is expected to play for about 30 minutes and has been preparing music by Brahms, Chopin, Debussy and Rachmaninoff. The pianist is perhaps best known now for the contest named after him, the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, which is held every four years in his home town, Fort Worth. The next competition is scheduled for 1989. After he won the gold medal in Moscow, the lanky, curly-headed Texan was embraced by Nikita Khrushchev and celebrated across America. For 20 years, he recorded and performed around the world. Then in 1978, he retired from public life and has neither recorded nor played in public since.

WHO gives updated AIDS figures

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that 68,217 cases of AIDS had been reported worldwide as of Wednesday, up by 2,151 from the previous week. It said the additional cases last week were reported by 26 countries. The sharp increase reflected the release of the European Regional Reporting Centre, WHO said. The United States reported 45,436 cases, Britain 1,123, France 2,523 and West Germany 1,400, WHO said.

India renews Tamil surrender call

COLOMBO (R) — India repeated a call to Sri Lanka's Tamil guerrillas to surrender amid scattered violence in which a policeman was killed and bombs were flung at a newspaper editor's home, officials said on Sunday.

State radio said Defence Minister K.C. Pant renewed an Indian offer made on Thursday of security, cash, food, shelter and help in returning to normal life to rebels giving up their arms and accept-

ing peace.

Mr. Pant told a meeting of Indian newspaper editors on Saturday that New Delhi had no intention of hurting Tamils in Sri Lanka and regretted that Tigers guerrillas had not responded to a 48-hour ceasefire on Nov. 21.

The Indian government's offer on Thursday included security against any threat to the guerrillas' lives, free food and shelter, a monthly stipend, general or voca-

tional training to prepare them for employment or self-employment and books and educational facilities for those who wanted them.

The Tigers, the biggest separatist group, rejected the July 29 peace accord which was aimed at ending the guerrilla war. They have since been locked in battle with over 20,000 Indian troops seeking to disarm them.

Blast rocks Kabul during Najibullah's speech

KABUL (R) — Four explosions rocked Kabul on Sunday in an apparent rebel attack as Afghanistan's Soviet-backed leader Najibullah addressed a National Assembly meeting in the capital.

The blasts shook the hall where Najibullah was addressing 1,500 delegates. Foreign journalists present heard planes taking off from Kabul airport and flying over the city minutes later.

The explosions came one after the other some 10 minutes after Najibullah had begun a speech on

his national reconciliation policies aimed at persuading the insurgents to give up their fight.

They were apparently caused by rockets fired from the outskirts of the mountain-ringed city. Diplomats in Kabul had been predicting a rebel attack to coincide with the assembly or "loya jirgah."

It was not immediately clear where the suspected rockets had landed but the explosions were close to the Kabul Polytechnic building where the assembly is

being held.

Although the walls of the buildings shook and the blasts briefly drowned his voice, the thick-set Najibullah, a former head of the country's security police, did not pause in his delivery.

The jirgah had been called to approve a new constitution and apparently to confirm Najibullah in effective power for some 15 months, as head of state. He is also leader of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDPA).

Cuban inmates in Atlanta free 4 of 94 hostages

ATLANTA (R) — Cuban prisoners in Atlanta released four of their 94 hostages early on Sunday, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Justice said.

He said they were released at 12.45 a.m. EST (0545 GMT). Earlier, the prisoners had announced the release as an act of good faith.

The hostages were taken to the prison warden's house within the prison complex, where their families waited.

The warden's home was turned into a "hostage house" for the families, who have been keeping vigil there since the guards were taken captive on Monday.

Cuban inmates at two U.S. prisons who were holding more than 100 hostages in protest at possible deportation were facing dwindling food and water supplies in their stand-off with authorities.

Tensions had mounted on Saturday inside the Atlanta pris-

on, where water was cut off on Friday. The inmates, some of them armed with homemade knives, were overheard squabbling.

In the stand-off at Oakdale, Louisiana, prison warden J.R. Johnson said no water had been allowed into the prison since last Sunday and he estimated the food supply when the riot began there a week ago was enough to last for four weeks.

A Justice Department spokesman Ron Tomalis said late on Saturday there had been no talks with the nearly 1,000 Oakdale inmates who have held 26 hostages since Friday afternoon.

In Atlanta, a fire broke out in a building normally used to segregate problem prisoners. It appeared to be waning about a half hour later when a fire was seen in another building.

It was not known if the 94 Atlanta hostages were being held in locations near the fires.

Hanoi makes partial pullout from Kampuchea

PHNOM PENH, Kampuchea (Agencies) — Monks, schoolgirls, ethnic minorities and other Kampuchean lined the streets of this capital city Sunday to honour thousands of Vietnamese soldiers said to be returning home after fighting in western Kampuchea.

Scores of vehicles carrying the 4,000 to 5,000 troops paraded past victory monument and headed east for the Vietnamese border before a downpour broke up the two-hour ceremony.

A singer and backup band were forced to stop their praise of Vietnamese-Kampuchean "samaki" (solidarity).

The soldiers arrived in Phnom Penh from the battlefields of Battambang province, where a similar ceremony was staged Thursday.

Officials say the troops are part of the largest of six annual pull-outs Vietnam claims to have made from Kampuchea since 1982.

Vietnam, with the backing of the Soviet Union, invaded Kampuchea in December 1978.

Vietnam has pledged to withdraw totally by 1990 and turn the war over to the army of the Phnom Penh government, which it installed.

More than five dozen Western journalists accepted invitations to cover the pullout, which Hanoi's critics have dismissed as mere troop rotations.

Foreign Minister Kong Korm gave no numbers, but he said half the troops that were in Kampuchea in 1979 have returned home.

Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen, who left Phnom Penh five days ahead of Paris talks with the opposition coalition of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, has stopped off in Moscow, an opposition spokesman said on Saturday.

Hun Sen, who heads the current Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, is due to meet Prince Sihanouk at a small village 100 kilometres south east of Paris next Wednesday, for talks on how to end a nine-year conflict in the South East Asian country.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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JUST ONE MORE CHANCE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 7 4
♥ Q 10 7 4
♦ K 10 8
♣ K 6 3

WEST EAST
♠ 8 ♠ 6 3 2
♥ K 9 5 3 ♥ A J 6 2
♦ A K Q 7 4 3 ♦ 5 2
♣ 5 2 ♣ J 10 9 8

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 9 5
♥ 8
♦ 9 6
♣ A Q 7 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠

There is a tendency not to consider the low cards in your long suits as losers, until it is too late to do anything about it. Remember that six missing cards are more likely to break 4-2 than 3-3, so that spot-card lurking behind the A-K-Q might be your downfall.

There is something to be said for a takeout double of one spade rather than an overcall with the West hand. Here it did little damage even though the 4-4 heart fit was

missed, but only because of the bad heart break. With a 3-2, division, four hearts by East-West would depend only on a successful trump finesse, and the suit was not even mentioned.

Declarer did not take long to go down in his contract. The defenders started with three rounds of diamonds, declarer ruffing the third. He drew three rounds of trumps and was ready to claim his contract until West showed out on the third round of clubs. So declarer ran all his winners; but East, who could count to 13, clung to his club for a one-trick get.

The way to improve declarer's chances is to draw only two rounds of trump before taking the three high clubs. If the suit breaks evenly, declarer can then draw the last trump and claim his contract. However, if the cards lie as in the diagram, West will follow to only two clubs but will be unable to ruff the third. That means declarer can ruff his last club on the table and claim his contract.

But, you ask, what if a defender ruffs the third round of clubs? In that case declarer will be down the same one trick that he would if he were to draw three rounds of trumps and concede the fourth club trick.